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[Editorial Report]

ICO Foreign Ministers Conference

Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) began a conference in Riyadh 13 March under the patronage of Saudi King Fahd, SPA reported. The ICO secretary general told KUNA earlier that the Palestine issue and Jerusalem will top the agenda, and that other important issues will include Afghanistan and the Iran-Iraq dispute. His list of topics did not include the Salman Rushdie affair. However, a Tehran paper cited by IRNA urged the ICO to confirm Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's "fatwa" (religious edict) against Rushdie and said this issue should be at the top of the conference agenda.

Syria

A Foreign Ministry spokesman accused two U.S. diplomats of "acts not in conformity with their diplomatic mission" by photographing PFLP-GC installations outside Damascus on 3 March, Damascus television reported. The Foreign Ministry said the U.S. Government's reply to the incident did not contain the "required clarifications" on the activities of the U.S. military attaché and his assistant. Noting that the two Americans were apprehended by PFLP-GC guards, the spokesman stressed that Syria handed them back "safe and sound" to the U.S. ambassador as soon as it learned of the incident.

The actions of the two U.S. diplomats and the "spying equipment and materials" they were carrying were detailed in a 10 March PFLP-GC "press statement" broadcast by the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio. The statement declared that the PFLP-GC is "fully aware" that the United States is trying to "blackmail" the Syrian Government into relaxing its stand on the "U.S.-Zionist" plans for the region.

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon stated in a report on the incident that the two diplomats were held in Damascus by PFLP-GC gunmen for 8 days.

The USSR has agreed to supply Syria with tanks, artillery, and surface-to-air missiles, according to Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD newspaper citing diplomatic sources in Beirut. The sources added that the decision to supply Syria with the weapons comes after "an official Soviet warning to Israel" not to carry out any military strike against Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Israel

Rabin on Syria—In view of its "hostile" policy toward Israel and its efforts to attain "strategic parity," Syria is "the foremost potential candidate for launching a hostile operation," Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in an interview with Jerusalem radio.

Reaction to 'Arafat—A recent statement by Yasir 'Arafat expressing willingness to come to Jerusalem for peace negotiations was dismissed by sources in the prime minister's office as "another gimmick" on the part of the PLO leader, THE JERUSALEM POST reported.

Territories—Two Arabs were killed and several injured in further clashes with Israeli soldiers in the territories 10-12 March, according to Jerusalem radio.

Lebanon

Infiltration Attempts—The IDF killed three "terrorists" who were detected moving toward the Israeli border in the central sector of the security zone the night of 12-13 March, IDF radio announced. Jerusalem radio said the squad was killed at close range in a 30-minute clash north of Kibbutz Manara. The terrorists were members of the Palestine Liberation Front and were apparently planning to attack an Israeli settlement.

The incident followed an earlier clash near Hasbayya in which two PFLP-GC members were killed by Israeli soldiers, IDF radio noted. In a statement carried by the clandestine Al-Quds radio, the PFLP-GC confirmed that two of its fighters were killed in a battle with "Zionist enemy forces" near Hasbayya.

In another development, two IDF soldiers and four Lebanese residents were injured by a roadside bomb explosion near Marj 'Uyun 10 March, according to Jerusalem radio.

Airport Closure—Middle East Airlines (MEA), the Lebanese national carrier, announced the "temporary suspension" of its flights to and from Beirut International Airport as of 12 March following a decision by the authorities in East Beirut to close the airport, Beirut radio reported. PSP leader Walid Junblatt, who is responsible for transport in the West Beirut administration, issued a statement calling on MEA and other airlines to resume their normal flights, the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio noted. The statement contended that the only reason for the air traffic standstill was the "threatening statement" issued by the Army Command in East Beirut.

The crisis over the airport followed further clashes between the Lebanese Army and PSP gunmen over the weekend, as reported by Voice of the Mountain and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. In statements reported

by Beirut radio, the prime minister and military command in West Beirut warned General Michel 'Awn against continuing attempts to blockade unofficial ports south of Beirut.

PLO-U.S. Dialogue

A commentary broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio expressed hope that the next PLO-U.S. meeting will discuss substantive issues and give impetus toward the convening of an international conference. Stressing that dialogue with the United States is an "urgent Palestinian request," the commentary said this does not embarrass the PLO as much as it embarrasses the U.S. Administration, which has not thus far disclosed what it wants from the dialogue and may not have a clear view on the matter.

In related remarks to a UAE newspaper cited by WAKH, PLO official Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh accused the United States of "procrastination" and said the dialogue has made "no progress."

Egypt

Egypt is against chemical weapons (CW) and condemns the building of CW factories, President Husni Mubarak asserted at a 10 March press conference in Brussels reported by MENA. He declared that Egypt does not have these facilities nor does it support their establishment in other countries, and claimed that the factory alleged by THE NEW YORK TIMES to be producing CW is in fact producing insecticides.

Turning to foreign affairs, Mubarak said he is not offering Europe a new initiative for peace in the Middle East. Nobody should "fear" the proposed international peace conference, he said, because the conference "will not impose any solution" on anyone but it is an "umbrella" under which direct negotiations can begin.

Foreign Minister 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid called on the EEC to invite Yasir 'Arafat to visit Brussels to "advance the European-Palestinian dialogue," MENA reported citing a Belgian newspaper. He noted that President Mubarak will "encourage" the EEC to recognize the PLO.

One hundred members of Islamic societies were released from detention 8 March, according to Cairo's AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper. The paper added that those released "refused to hold a dialogue" with Egyptian religious leaders at the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs.

Sudan

Political Developments—The Armed Forces submitted their "third memorandum" to the State Council 11 March asking if the party leaders are "procrastinating" in the search for a solution to the current crisis, if it is intended to submit the government action program to

the State Council, and if the government has submitted the resignation of its ministers, MENA reported. The agency added later that the resignation of "all 25 ministers" has been accepted by the State Council. INA noted that Al-Mahdi did not submit his own resignation.

In an interview with Kuwait's AL-WATAN, Al-Mahdi declared he will seek the participation of all the country's political forces, including the National Islamic Front (NIF), in the new government, KUNA reported. He added that the NIF's agreement to the action program and the peace policy is a precondition for its participation.

Southern Aid—Al-Mahdi met with the U.S. ambassador to Khartoum and with relief agencies to agree the delivery of relief aid to the south worth \$77 million, Khartoum National Unity Radio reported. Al-Mahdi promised that the government "will do its best" to deliver the aid "before the rains begin."

Iraq

Iraq is "serious" in its approach to democracy although it may be "different" from the Western approach to democratic freedoms in the "liberal" countries, President Saddam Husayn declared in an interview with London's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper. The new political parties will not form part of the National Front since the Front is to be dissolved, but the Revolution Command Council and the revolutionary courts will be retained, he noted.

In a dispatch from Vienna, INA reported that the International Committee of the Red Cross has welcomed Saddam Husayn's "initiative" on a "full exchange" of Iraqi and Iranian POW's.

Algeria

The Islamic Salvation Front, the country's first Islamic political party, was proclaimed in Algiers 10 March, AFP reported. The party's action program proposes "substituting Islam for imported ideologies" and the party will pursue a "moderate" line, the party's leaders said at a meeting in the capital.

Western Sahara

The Polisario Front has resumed its military operations against Morocco as of 1 March, Algiers radio reported citing Saharan President and Polisario secretary-general Mohamed Abdelaziz. However, a Polisario spokesman cited by AFP said the Front hopes direct negotiations with Morocco will resume and there are no conditions imposed by the Front for this.

Afghanistan

Government Appeal, Soviet Statement—President Najibullah has appealed to his Soviet and U.S. counterparts to "take immediate necessary measures" to halt further

"extensive attacks" by the Pakistani military around Jalalabad, Kabul radio reported. The Soviet Government issued a statement 11 March supporting Najibullah's appeal and pointing out that the Geneva accords "are being crudely flouted," TASS reported. The statement alleges that Pakistan troops "are directly participating in combat operations" and warns that the USSR "cannot remain indifferent" to attempts to ignore the Geneva accords.

Military Developments—The mujahidin attacked Kabul Airport with surface-to-surface missiles 11 March, slightly damaging an Aeroflot aircraft, TASS reported.

Afghan Armed Forces units based in Nangarhar Province carried out "retaliatory" attacks on the joint mujahidin-Pakistani troops leaving 415 "invaders" dead and more than 350 wounded, Kabul radio reported. Afghan artillery and air force have "stopped" the mujahidin offensive around Jalalabad, BAKHTAR reported. According to a 10 March Tehran radio report, "Muslim revolutionaries" captured the "old part" of Jalalabad city and shot down two Kabul regime bombers, while Islamabad radio reported that the mujahidin have occupied a "major section" of Jalalabad Airport but have yet to take control of the entire airport. An Armed Forces spokesman revealed that the mujahidin fired about 3,000 shells and missiles on Jalalabad in a 24-hour period, Kabul radio reported.

Relief Supplies—A convoy of 120 trucks carrying food, fuel, and other basic commodities arrived in Kabul 9 March, according to BAKHTAR. Meanwhile, Soviet aircraft resumed the airlift of flour to Kabul 12 March, according to AFP citing Soviet sources. The agency added that all Afghan fighter aircraft have been moved from the airport to other bases to safeguard them from mujahidin rocket attacks.

Najibullah has signed a "nonaggression protocol" with village elders and chiefs which enables convoys of relief vehicles to use the Kabul-Parwan highway, Kabul radio reported. As a result of the protocol, armed operations along the highway by the opposition "will cease from 12 March."

Mujahidin Politics—The first meeting of the Afghan "interim government" was held 10 March in an eastern Afghanistan town, Islamabad radio reported. Moscow radio noted that the rebels' plans to hold a meeting of the interim government in Jalalabad were "frustrated" by the "stiff resistance" of the Afghan Army.

Saudi Arabia's recognition of the "so-called provisional government of the extremists" was condemned as "illegal and unwise" by the Afghan Foreign Ministry in a statement broadcast by Kabul radio. The statement demanded that the Saudi authorities "keep their hands off" the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Sudan declared "official and full recognition" of the Afghan provisional government 11 March, Omdurman radio noted. Bahrain has also recognized the mujahidin government, according to WAKH.

Pakistan

The caretaker government formed by former President Ziaul Haq after the dissolution of the National Assembly 29 May 1988 was "unconstitutional," according to a judgement by the Supreme Court handed down 10 March, Islamabad radio reported. According to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, every order or appointment issued by the president from 29 May through 2 December 1988 was "illegal," the radio added. The minister of law and justice told journalists in Rawalpindi that the government may refer the present composition of the Senate to the Supreme Court in light of the 10 March judgement, although "a little more study" is needed before taking this step.

Islamic Affairs

Reportage on ICO Summit Preparations in Riyadh

SPA on Preparatory Meeting

LD1103132189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1121 GMT
11 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Mar (SPA)—The first session of the meeting to prepare for the 18th congress of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] began at 1100 at the King Faysal Conference Center in Riyadh. The session is at the level of senior officials and is meant to prepare an agenda to be presented to the foreign ministers.

Ambassador Isma'il al-Shuri, Saudi assistant undersecretary of state for political affairs and head of the Kingdom's delegation, was elected chairman of the meeting. The representatives of Mali, Malaysia, and Palestine were also elected deputies to the chairman. It was decided to hold the coming meeting in Jordan.

Secretary General Views Issues

LD1203193689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1544 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, March 12 (KUNA)—The Organization of Islamic Conference's [ICO] foreign ministers began to arrive Sunday here for a four-day gathering due to start on Monday amid growing optimism that the meeting would further strengthen unity and solidarity among Muslim countries.

Scores of ministers have already flew into Riyadh to take part in the ICO 18th ministerial conference as the official SAUDI PRESS AGENCY's political commentator reiterated that the Islamic solidarity remains the only alternative for the Muslims to successfully confront the plots hatched against them by their enemies.

He stressed that the Muslim nation is determined to achieve social, economic and cultural development and unity, noting that the call for Islamic solidarity emanated for the first time from Holy Mecca by our glorious Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him.)

"The 18th Islamic foreign ministers' conference is held in Riyadh at a time when the world is passing a stage of breakthrough," the commentator said, and added "it is hoped that the conference will yield positive results."

Meanwhile, ICO Secretary General Dr Hamid al-Gabid told the agency today that the question of the Israeli occupied holy city of Al-Quds and the Palestinian cause would top the conference's agenda.

"We are witnessing a decisive turning point in the Islamic nation's history, thanks to the heroic Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories and the outstanding political achievements by the recently proclaimed independent Palestinian state," Dr al-Gabid said.

He expressed optimism over the expected outcome of the great Islamic gathering in Riyadh and said it would certainly adopt positive resolutions that would serve the Islamic nation's causes and enhance its solidarity.

He said other issues of importance on the agenda include the Afghanistan question, the Iran-Iraq conflict, conditions of Muslim minorities in non-member states and the question of Muslims of the Philippines.

Dr al-Gabid, who was speaking following his meeting here today with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal, said he briefed the Saudi official on preparations of the meeting.

Upon arrival here, Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz welcomed Saudi Arabia's recent decision to recognize the interim government announced by the Afghan mujahidin. He noted that the Islamic conference would enhance relations among Muslim countries and hoped that the outcome of the meeting would meet the aspirations of the Muslim nation.

On his part, the foreign minister of mujahidin interim government, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, told reporters on arrival that the mujahidin were currently besieging the Afghan capital, Kabul.

He said the mujahidin would not launch a comprehensive attack on the city because they were keen to avoid bloodshedding.

IRNA on Agenda, Rushdie Affair

LD1303060289 Tehran IRNA in English 0557 GMT
13 Mar 89

["By Nawab Khan"]

[Text] Athens, March 13, IRNA—The 18th meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (ICO), which begins Monday in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, is taking place at a crucial period when relations between the West and the Islamic world is in a deep crisis over the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses."

For inter-Muslim relations, the atmosphere surrounding the Riyadh conference is considered to be congenial, following two major developments since the 17th ICO meeting in Jordan last year: the Iran-Iraq cease-fire and withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Whereas the Amman conference pre-occupied itself with inter-Muslim crises like the 8-year Iraqi-imposed war on Iran and the massacre of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca in 1987, the meeting in Riyadh is expected to focus on two main issues, Afghanistan and Palestine.

ICO's Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid told Saudi daily 'UKAZ Sunday that the Palestinian question was the peak of the problems of the Muslim world, followed by the Afghan issue. He also expressed hope that a delegation from Iran would be participating in the conference.

The 4-day conference, presided by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, will deliberate over a 150-item agenda linked with 36 political subjects, 38 economic and 19 cultural issues, 3 topics each on information and judicial matters and other financial and administrative questions.

Nine countries have demanded inclusion of new topics in the agenda for discussions. Iran wants discussion on ways and means to counter political and cultural invasion against the Islamic world, while Iraq proposed the issue of prisoners of war to be included in the agenda.

Iran's participation in the Riyadh meeting, albeit not on a ministerial level, is seen as a test for the commitment of the ICO's principles for Islamic solidarity in face of an onslaught against Islam and its prophet itself.

The Rusdie affair, nevertheless, disappeared from the pages of Saudi dailies Sunday, a sign that Riyadh wants to downplay the issue in the meeting. Instead, Afghanistan and Palestine were highlighted as the two chief issues which will be discussed.

Saudi Arabia was the first country to recognize the interim Islamic government in Afghanistan and will press the ICO meeting to follow in its footsteps. The Afghanistan's Islamic government's 'foreign minister' will attend as an observer, Saudi dailies said.

In an interview with Saudi daily 'UKAZ, Egypt's ambassador in Riyadh, Qasim al-Masri, said he expected the foreign ministers' meeting in Riyadh would recognize the Palestinian state declared independent last November in Algiers.

According to Saudi press reports, the Riyadh meeting will exert all efforts to build confidence between Iran and Iraq aimed at achieving lasting peace.

The situation in Lebanon and Sudan, the issue of Muslim minorities, and economic cooperation, will be some of the topics under discussion in the ministerial Riyadh meeting.

Other new subjects proposed for inclusion in the agenda are countries that have resumed ties with the Zionist state or still maintain relations with it, disarmament and toxic waste.

The next ICO foreign ministers meeting is expected to be held in Egypt in 1990.

In an editorial, 'UKAZ said the meeting represents a "new historical turning point for the Islamic umma," and stressed that the "success of the Riyadh conference is the success of the umma."

In the past, however, ICO meetings turned out to be mere rituals which issued resolutions and recommendations never to be implemented.

Bold steps that put Islamic brotherhood and solidarity before petty political and national interests are required to make ICO an effective forum having a say in international affairs.

The ICO meet should hearken to the words of the almighty in the holy Koran that "Allah does not change the condition of a people unless they change what is in themselves."

ICO Not To 'Politicize' Rushdie

JN1103180289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1715 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] In Abu Dhabi, the official news agency of the United Arab Emirates, WAM, today announced that the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] will confront any Iranian attempt to politicize Salman Rushdie's case during the ICO conference in Riyadh on Monday.

Citing sources close to the ICO conference, WAM explained that Salman Rushdie's case will be discussed only within the framework of the ICO's cultural affairs committee.

Turkish Minister Holds Contacts

TA1203184989 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1700 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The Islamic countries' 18th foreign ministers conference will begin in Riyadh tomorrow. Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, who went to Riyadh to attend the conference, is holding bilateral contacts there. Nuran Milli reports: This morning, Yilmaz met separately with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and Kenan Atakol, the foreign affairs and defense minister of the Turkish Republic of Cyprus.

At his meeting with the Saudi foreign minister, Yilmaz discussed bilateral relations and those issues that will be discussed at the conference to which Turkey gives priority. At his meeting with Atakol, Yilmaz said they assessed the intercommunal talks being held in Cyprus on the basis of equality.

Meanwhile, Turkey's ambassadors to the Arab countries, to Iran, and to Pakistan, have begun a regional coordination meeting in Riyadh. The meeting is being chaired by Foreign Minister Yilmaz. The latest developments

occurring in the regional countries are being discussed, as well as Turkey's relations with those countries. The participants are also reviewing ways in which Turkey can contribute to political solutions and economic development efforts in the region. [passage omitted]

Conference Opens 13 Mar

LD1303104789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1035 GMT
13 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 13 March, (SPA)—Under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the 18th Islamic States Foreign Ministerial Conference started its proceedings in the King Faysal Hall in Riyadh this morning.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC Detains U.S. Embassy Employees in Syria

PFLP-GC Refuses Comment

NC1003172089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Tension remains high between Washington and Damascus. The pro-Syrian Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], led by Ahmad Jibril, has refused to comment on Washington's protest to Damascus because PFLP-GC gunmen held two employees of the U.S. embassy in Damascus for 8 days.

The PFLP-GC explained that it will issue a statement on this subject tomorrow. Meanwhile, the Syrian Government has not yet commented on the incident.

PFLP-GC 'Press Statement'

JN1103113189 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian
Arab Radio in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Mar 89

["Press Statement" by "an official source" in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command on 10 March—place not given]

[Text] Concerning the U.S. State Department's story about the detention of two diplomats from its Damascus embassy last week, an official source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

At 1200 on Friday 3 March 1989, the guards of a PFLP-GC camp some 40 km from Damascus noticed two foreigners taking pictures of the camp's periphery and positions. The foreigners infiltrated to the camp's precincts in broad daylight through deserted agricultural land some 1 and 1/2 km from the nearest asphalt road despite a sign warning against approaching or photographing the area.

When the guards asked the two foreigners to stop, they tried to escape in the direction of their vehicle, a Nissan Patrol. The guards had to repeat the order to stop. When the two foreigners failed to obey the order, the guards had to fire warning shots in the air, which forced them to stop. In view of the foreigners' strange presence, the guards searched their bags and the vehicle's contents. They found the following spying equipment and materials:

1. Military maps showing PFLP-GC military positions and some Syrian air defense missile positions in the area.
2. Four espionage cameras equipped with sensitive lenses with which three rolls of film were taken.
3. Two military field binoculars.
4. Two military compasses.
5. Other materials.

When they were asked to identify themselves, they said they were Canadians working with the Canadian Embassy in Damascus. When they were asked why they had photographed the front's military positions and then failed to stop, they refused to reply and remained silent. The guards had to escort them to another command post near Damascus, where the local security officer was called in. He searched them and their personal effects thoroughly. During this search, their identity cards were discovered. It was found that one of them was Colonel Clifford Robert Ward, the military attache at the American Embassy in Damascus, and the other was his aide Major Peter (Seagal). When they were asked why they concealed their real identity and claimed to be Canadian, they declined to reply and remained silent once again. They were treated well. Afterward, the competent Syrian authorities were contacted. They were handed to the Syrian brothers, along with all of their documents and spying equipment and materials.

The statement issued by the PFLP-GC official source adds: We in the PFLP-GC wanted to issue a press statement then to explain and prove the involvement of the American intelligence organ, CIA, together with the Zionist Mosad in espionage and terrorist acts against us. However, at the request of the Syrian brothers we preferred not to do so.

And now, American impudence surprised us by accusing us of holding the two employees at its embassy who it claims are innocent. It intentionally did not mention their military posts, the nature of their diplomatic tasks at the embassy, and the mission they were carrying out near our positions. It is as if the U.S. Administration wants to claim that the front is pursuing their innocent employees, as it put it.

This is not the first time the U.S. Administration has carried out espionage and terrorist acts on the account of the Zionist Mosad. CIA records are filled with strong acts of cooperation with the Zionist Mosad. The most prominent act is the joint scheme to hijack the Libyan civilian airliner and force it to land in the occupied territory recently, thinking that it had on board PFLP-GC Secretary General Mr Ahmad Jibril. The plane was returned when it was found that Mr Jibril was not among the passengers.

The PFLP-GC official source's response to the story of the U.S. Department of State on the detention of two diplomats from its embassy adds: For a long time, the U.S. Administration instigated activities against the front and accused it of attacking civilians throughout the world. It is known that the U.S. Administration knows full well that the PFLP-GC, throughout its history, has only fought the Zionist enemy without mercy. And this is our legitimate right against an enemy occupying our homeland.

We are fully aware that the American campaign against our front aims—in addition to insulting the front's history—to blackmail the Syrian Government out of the U.S. Administration's conviction that such pressures can affect the firmness of the Syrian stand confronting the Zionist-American plan in the region.

The U.S. Administration—instigated by influential organs in the PLO with 'Arafat's personal instruction and through false information supplied to the U.S. Administration by these organs to get closer to the U.S. Administration—only aims at insulting and plotting against our front, which stands at the top of those confronting the American-Zionist capitulatory plan.

The PFLP-GC statement concludes: The U.S. Administration's claim that it is the defender of human rights in the world is a lie and farce ridiculed by everybody. This is proven by the tangible evidence of an act of espionage against our positions. The strange thing is that the U.S. Administration still sees with its own eyes the daily premeditated killing of the Palestinian civilians—children, women, and defenseless old men—in cold blood at the hands of the Zionists. Meanwhile, we do not hear from the U.S. Administration a true word or a just stand on what is taking place. It even refuses to condemn the enemy government and hastens to veto any international resolution condemning the Zionist enemy for its daily brutal practices against our Palestinian people.

[Dated] 10 March 1989

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

PFLP-GC, 'Zionist' Patrols Clash in Border Area

PFLP-GC Claims Responsibility

NC1203160989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] The Ahmad Jibril-led Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]

has claimed responsibility for an infiltration attempt into Israel from Lebanon in which two of its members were killed.

In a statement issued in Rashayya, the pro-Syrian front pointed out that last night, the Israeli army and the South Lebanese Army intercepted a group of its fighters who were attempting to infiltrate into Israel north of Hasbayya, in the security zone. Two members of the group were killed, but the others managed to return to their bases.

Two 'Comrades' Killed

JN1203165289 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab
Radio in Arabic 1614 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] A responsible military source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] stated the following:

Out of our commitment to continuing the path of armed struggle as a way to liberate Palestine—all Palestine—while one of our combat patrols was carrying out its militant duty inside the border strip area in Hasbayya on 11 March 1989, it clashed with Zionist enemy patrols. A fierce battle raged between our comrades and the Zionist enemy forces, which brought mechanized reinforcements and helicopters, including war fighter planes. Our comrades inflicted heavy losses on the Zionist forces, including killed and wounded, in addition to materiel losses of war vehicles and equipment.

Two comrades in the patrol were martyred in this battle. These martyrs are comrade Abu Salim, a senior cadre in the fedayeen units, and comrade Zayd. The rest of our comrades in the patrol returned safely to base.

We pledge to our comrade martyrs and all the martyrs of our Palestinian revolution and Arab nation to pursue armed struggle until the liberation of man and land.

Military Communique on Clash

JN1303084889 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab
Radio in Arabic 0820 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpts] We have received the following military communique from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]:

[Passage omitted] One of our combat patrols, while on its way to Palestine to succor the stonethrowers of our people, clashed on 12 March 1989. [sentence as heard]. The clash took place in Hasbayya on the slopes of Mount Hermon. A fierce battle took place between our patrol and the forces of the Zionist enemy and its allies, the forces of agent Lahd. The enemy sent reinforcements, including helicopters, to the area of operations. As a result of the clash, two comrades of the patrol were martyred while the other patrol members returned to base. The enemy sustained heavy losses. [passage omitted]

PLO's Sha'th: U.S. Visa Decision 'Positive' Step
JN1303121489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
11 Mar 89 p 9

[Text] Cairo, AL-ITTIHAD—Before leaving Cairo for New York, Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, praised the recent American move granting him and three other PLO members visas to enter the United States to attend a conference on the Middle East peace issue. The conference was organized by the Jerusalem-based AL-FAJR newspaper and the NEW OUTLOOK magazine 11-13 March. Sha'th said that the American stand represents a positive accomplishment and step.

On the excessive American reservations vis-a-vis the international conference and Baker's statement that the time is not yet appropriate to convene such a conference, Sha'th said: We must push the international peace conference toward a clear and just solution. He said: The reservation was expected, but we must move toward convening the international conference. He added: Our political moves are very active, the intifadah [uprising] continues, and the entire world is on our side. We are moving step by step toward complete dialogue and full recognition, particularly since our program is clear and the world supports it.

On the report prepared by the Strategic Studies Center at Tel Aviv University calling on Israel to give the Palestinians a kind of stability and to deal with the PLO, Nabil Sha'th said: In light of the options and proposals presented by some ministries and strategic centers, Israel has begun gradually to reverse its policy. Israel has begun to present proposals and excuses to recognize the Palestinians' right to a state and to negotiate with the PLO.

Sha'th said: On our part, however, we will not be required to present more than we have already presented. We expressed a clear strategy and a readiness to establish a Palestinian state next to Israel. And we are ready to hold negotiations on the procedures at an international conference. In other words, we are not required today to make additional concessions because we have reached the final line and we must not continue with our course.

Nabil Sha'th said that what is taking place in Israel today affirms its retreat from old policies. Therefore, he added, we will continue to push them until they reach the end.

On the U.S. attempt to deprive the Soviets of success in their recent initiative in the region, Sha'th said: We are not worried about the Soviet presence in the region because they projected this presence through Gorbachev's new policy. The problem today, however, is how to be part of the game. We must not come out with things that will ultimately appear to be mirages. He said: We truly support an international conference because we need international guarantees that are more important than the guarantees sought by Israel. He added: However, we must concentrate on results more than method.

I mean by results the recognition of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Sha'th said: We want our brother Arabs' support for this active political move and our brave intifadah because without this support the path will become longer and the tribulation will continue.

Urges Cease-Fire With Israel

NC1203203289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council, has called for a cease-fire between Israel and the PLO in southern Lebanon. However, he believed that the recent fedayeen actions did not conflict with the PLO's pledge to repudiate terrorism. He noted that no pledge has been made to refrain from resisting the occupation authorities.

Rabbuh Says U.S. Supports 'Israeli Terrorism'

NC1103095389 Paris AFP in English 0939 GMT
11 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 11 (AFP)—A senior PLO official has strongly criticized U.S. policy at the United Nations and accused Washington of blocking Security Council attempts to condemn Israeli repression in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Executive Committee, said the United States was meanwhile supporting "Israeli terrorism."

The United States has often used its veto power at the U.N. Security Council to block resolutions condemning Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

Addressing a rally here Friday, the PLO official added that his organisation was not "begging" for a dialogue with the United States.

"The aim of our dialogue with the United States is to pave the way for an international peace conference and we will discuss this at our next encounter," said Mr. 'Abd Rabbuh.

Breaking with a 13-year ban on contact with the PLO, Washington launched talks with the organisation after PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat explicitly recognised Israel and renounced terrorism.

Mr. 'Abd Rabbuh led the PLO delegation at the first and only official encounter with U.S. representatives, headed by the U.S. ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau.

The U.S. State Department said Friday that a second meeting would take place over the next two weeks in Tunis.

Rabbuh on 'Procrastination'

JN1303085789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT
13 Mar 89

[Text] Dubayy, 13 Mar (WAKH)—A Palestinian official has said that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has made no progress, despite the U.S. Administration's excuse that it is passing through a transitional stage between two eras. He noted that the Palestinian party was certain that this is a political excuse to procrastinate. In a statement to AL-BAYAN published today, PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said the PLO is ready to embark on the dialogue. He said that if Washington believes that time is on its and Israel's side it is deluding itself. 'Abd Rabbuh added that the gap within Israeli society and its institutions is growing while more voices are being heard in the United States itself calling for recognition of and dialogue with the PLO.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said that the USSR had proposed to the Zionist foreign minister and the PLO that the PLO and the enemy government hold a dialogue hosted by the Soviet Government in Moscow.

The Palestinian official voiced the PLO's support for a quintuple meeting comprising the parties to the international conference. He added that the PLO took the initiative in presenting this proposal, which was discussed by the Soviet foreign minister during his recent regional tour. The responses to this initiative were positive, 'Abd Rabbuh added. Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh called for defining a time frame—6 to 9 months—to accomplish the preparatory work for convening an international conference.

'Abd Rabbuh disclosed the existence of Israeli ideas calling for bilateral negotiations under a Soviet-American umbrella. He said the PLO rejects this out of its concern to achieve a comprehensive solution under effective international supervision, not formal supervision.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh denied what has been reiterated of a retreat from the idea of forming a provisional Palestinian government. He affirmed that the issue of the government is still subject to discussion and consultation among the different Palestinian quarters. He noted that internal and external considerations call on the PLO to continue its research and remain patient.

'Arafat Expresses Readiness To Go to Jerusalem

NC1203155789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his readiness to go to Jerusalem to convince the Israelis about the need to convene an international peace conference. 'Arafat said: I am ready to follow Al-Sadat's road, but I am not Al-Sadat. I will not go to Jerusalem without the Arabs' full agreement.

He stressed the need to deepen the dialogue with the United States, because a lot of things depend on Washington, as he put it. 'Arafat arrived in Saudi Arabia this afternoon from Bahrain.

[In a related report, the Clandestine Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 1545 GMT on 12 March adds that 'Arafat made the above statement in an interview with the Italian paper LA REPUBBLICA]

Says Lebanon Attacks Can Stop

NC1203183989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced that Palestinian attacks from southern Lebanon can stop if Israel refrains from launching air raids on southern Lebanon, halts its suppressive measures, and stops opening fire on Palestinian demonstrators in the West Bank and Gaza sector.

In an interview with the Italian newspaper LA REPUBBLICA, 'Arafat expressed readiness to go to Jerusalem to persuade the Israelis to accept the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

On U.S. Need To Define Policy

JN1203204289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1930 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] At a news conference before leaving Dhaka at the end of his visit to Bangladesh, brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held the Zionist entity responsible for blocking efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar urged the U.S. Administration to define its policy toward the Palestine question, especially since it has agreed to open a dialogue with the PLO. He expressed confidence in our great Palestinian people's ability to achieve victory. He also voiced hope that a Palestinian state will be established on the Palestinian national soil as soon as possible.

On Dialogue With U.S.

JN1203185489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Manama, 12 Mar (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that Palestinian-U.S. contacts have not been discontinued since the first session in Tunis last December between the ambassadors of Palestine and the United States to Tunisia.

At a news conference in Manama today, 'Arafat expected the second formal session of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to be held on 16 March.

'Arafat stressed that the establishment of the Palestinian state is a matter of time and that this state is now within a stone's throw.

On the Palestinian intifadah [uprising], 'Arafat said that oppression will only fan its flames. He indicated that many factors and signs favor the establishment of the Palestinian state.

He said that the international moves, especially those of the EC, the Soviet Union, and the Chinese leadership, support and boost the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat recalled the September statement of former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in which the start of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was announced.

This statement, 'Arafat said, talked for the first time about the national rights of the Palestinian people, the international peace conference, and the right of the Palestinian side to present its demand for an independent state.

Although the Americans have their own point of view regarding the Palestinian state, he said, the question of this state is only a matter of time.

'Arafat described U.S. President George Bush's assertion on the continuation of the dialogue with the PLO as a positive development in the U.S. position toward this dialogue, especially since it came only days before the visit of enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the United States.

Wafa Political Editor on Dialogue With U.S.
JN1103202089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1837 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Brothers, under the headline "A Responsible Dialogue and Those Responsible for This Dialogue," the political editor of the Palestinian News Agency, Wafa, says:

The PLO has exerted concentrated efforts to achieve progress on the path of dialogue with the United States because the PLO realizes that the United States is not just a number in the region's equation but is a fundamental party, and probably is the most important factor ever in this equation, as it firmly holds the Israeli card and can give it whatever orientation it wants.

We do not deny, and no one can deny, the power of the Jewish lobby in the United States. However, any concept that this lobby is the one that governs relations with Israel is a concept that does not take into consideration

the structure of the superpower that, along with the USSR, possesses the key to peace and war in the whole world. In light of this, dialogue with the United States is an urgent Palestinian request for which the PLO is striving with all confidence and energy. This does not embarrass it as much as it embarrasses the U.S. Administration, which does not seem, up to this very minute, to disclose what it wants from this dialogue. We might even claim that it does not yet have a clear view on the prospects, aims, and results of this dialogue.

Therefore, through all responsible statements that were made during the past days regarding this particular issue, the PLO wanted to stress two basic points: The first is that the PLO, which strove for the dialogue with the United States and succeeded through the mediation and guarantees of Swedish officials, will continue to strive for this dialogue and will insist on it until it forces its own way and takes its normal path.

As for the second point: The PLO can call dialogue by its proper name only when it is a substantial dialogue that bears upon the fundamental issues of the Palestine question in a desire to reach decisive solutions to them. This is why one cannot call all that has happened so far a dialogue. It rather belongs to the category of introductions that serve as a starting point for a fruitful dialogue, taking into consideration that introductions should belong to the context of the dialogue and be at its service and should not become the essence, whatever the importance of these introductions.

On the basis of this, we hope that the next meeting will include the study of substantial issues and that a mutual impetus will be given during it toward the convening of the international conference for a comprehensive and just peace, so that this will bring steps closer on the path to world peace and end this daily terrorism, which is being carried out by Israel. This terrorism, which is seen by the world, is condemned by world public opinion, including the U.S. public itself.

We might not be in a position to be upset by this U.S. procrastination so long as we ourselves, who strove for this dialogue and on which we say we were patient, will insist on it. However, we always have the right to announce the lack of a serious and responsible stand by the U.S. Administration and to call on the Swedish officials to use their right as mediators to keep the agreement in force. All this will not cancel our view concerning the crude and frightening hostility that still governs the policy of the U.S. Administration in confronting our Palestinian people, their revolution, and the uprising. This hostility and its continuation contradict the simplest forms of dialogue.

Algeria

First Islamic Political Party Proclaimed

NC1103175489 Paris AFP in English 1716 GMT
11 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, March 11 (AFP)—Thousands of Moslems gathered in Kouba, a suburb of the capital, on Friday [as received] to hear the official proclamation of Algeria's first Islamic political party, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The collegiate shura consultative council of the FIS comprises 14 members, including the country's principal fundamentalist leaders: Ali Bel Hadj of the working class Bab el Oued district of Algiers, sociologist Abass Madani and Shaykhs Abdelbaki, Benazzouz and Amokrane.

Shaykh Abdelbaki, a leader of the Da'wa (Call to Islam) movement, told the crowd: "From this historic moment on, the (Algerian) Moslem will no longer put up with being a dumb object directed from the capitals of East and West."

Shaykh 'Uthman Amokrane read out an action programme for the front, which proposed "substituting Islam for imported ideologies" and working for "unity, in Moslem ranks and preserving the achievements of the ummah (Islamic community)." Islamic leaders should provide a "total alternative" in political, social and economic terms, he added.

FIS leaders said the front would pursue a "moderate" line and defended it from criticism of "extremist" positions during the run-up to a referendum late last month which gave Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid a mandate for reform paving the way for multi-party democracy.

On Wednesday, in the biggest rally of Algerian women ever staged by unofficial groups since independence in 1962, some 4,000 women marched on parliament here calling for equal rights with men and the abolition of what they called on "outdated" family code. Women also made charges of intolerance, increasing intimidation and violence against them in statements clearly aimed at Moslem fundamentalists.

An Islamic front leader responded Friday that it was concerned to promote "women's right to existence" and said that the organization was founded on "Islamic love and brotherhood." Mr. Madani said that women would be "the first to benefit" from FIS policy, adding that the front planned to set up a women's section "the better to take charge" of their special problems.

Egypt

Mubarak Expresses 'Political and Economic' Views

NC1203105189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] The Hague, 12 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak described the talks which he conducted during his visit to Brussels, the first leg of his current European

tour, as "political and economic." He said that he met with the Belgian king, the Belgian prime minister, and EC officials at the Brussels EC headquarters.

Speaking to journalists today in The Hague, Mubarak said that his discussions with the Belgian side showed that Belgium is willing to expand its commercial and economic relations with Egypt and to take part in some projects in Egypt.

President Mubarak said that his talks with EC officials in Brussels dealt with the political and economic situation and with the circumstances in Egypt. He said Egypt is more interested in economic reform than any other party, because it is interested in the future of its own people. He added that "the talks with the IMF are continuing, but any talks may stumble and then resume. We hope these talks will conclude."

Concerning the political and economic impact of his foreign visits this year, President Mubarak said that economics and politics are interconnected and are both important. He stressed the political weight that Egypt holds, describing it as "of crucial importance." This factor, President Mubarak said, imparts special importance to Egypt's economic situation. Egypt has the support of many sides, he said, adding that Egypt, by its nature and role, is taking a leading stand on political issues and is speaking clearly and frankly.

Concerning the Palestinian issue, President Mubarak said that this is the main issue in the entire region. He added that Egypt has been dealing with this issue since it started and is exerting its utmost efforts. He noted that these efforts are "clear to all the European countries, all of whom appreciate the Egyptian role."

Concerning the Middle East international peace conference, President Mubarak said, "We all talk about this conference except for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir."

The president continued: I would like to know why they—the Israelis—are afraid of the international conference. I see no reason for their fear.

Mubarak said: In the framework of the international conference, we will all sit together and talk in one or two sessions, and then there will be direct talks, for the issue will not be resolved except through direct talks among all the parties. Mubarak added that all the parties agree with this view.

Mubarak said: I do not see any reason for this rejection on Israel's side. It can only lead to continued clashes and to economic collapse in the region, including in Israel.

Answering a question on the support by a majority of Israelis for holding negotiations with the PLO when Yitzhaq Shamir is refusing to do so, President Husni

Mubarak said: Shamir represents the Israeli Government and we are dealing with his government. He added that if Israeli public opinion is moving in that direction, then the time will come when Shamir has to yield to Israel's majority.

Regarding the Third World countries' debt problem, President Mubarak stressed that it is a "difficult one" for these countries, noting that a number of countries have raised this issue before. He added that the EEC countries are now raising the issue of Third World debts and making proposals concerning it. President Mubarak praised the Netherlands' stand taken some months ago when it cancelled part of the debts owed to it by Egypt.

President Mubarak said that the creditor countries will face recession because they will be negatively affected in the future if no solution is found to the Third World debt. He added: If the situation continues as it is now, then the time will come when the debtor countries will not be able to buy anything and will not be able to pay off their debts. Consequently, there will be no opportunity to purchase the products of the European countries and these will have a recession. He stressed the need to extend assistance to those suffering from financial problems so as to enable them to pay off their debts.

President Mubarak said that all the creditor countries made profits ranging between \$50 billion and \$70 billion in 1 year when the oil price dropped, and these countries should therefore view the position of the debtor countries with understanding.

Asked whether there is European mediation between the creditor and debtor countries or between Egypt and its creditor countries, President Mubarak said: The European countries are not playing any mediatory role; When they speak, they do so as the EEC.

Answering another question, President Mubarak denied that the EEC is interceding with the IMF on behalf of the Third World countries. He said that the IMF wants to get its money back because it wants to repay the funds it owes to the commercial banks.

Mubarak Denies Chemical Warfare Accusation
LD1003173189 Brussels Domestic Service in French
1700 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Egyptian President Mubarak, who is paying an official visit to our country, has categorically denied that his country manufactures chemical weapons. The news had appeared this morning in THE NEW YORK TIMES.

AL-AKHBAR on Weapons 'Campaign'
NC1203221289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says that the question that was put to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at a news conference in Brussels about

Egypt's possession of chemical weapons was designed to distort Egypt's image in the international arena, especially in the United States. This is in the wake of the impact left by Egypt's continuous efforts to give momentum to the Middle East peace process as well as its adoption of the PLO's positive stand.

The paper says that diplomatic sources in Washington have sensed the aim of this campaign at this particular time. It is in line with a propaganda campaign planned by Zionist pressure groups to create an uproar that would eclipse Egypt's intensive efforts to persuade Israel to accept the convening of an international peace conference.

In its Monday commentary, the paper says that those who are directing this plan also aim to raise doubts during President Mubarak's current tour of some West European countries.

AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that accusing Egypt of producing chemical weapons proves the ignorance of those who stand behind this campaign because Egypt has often underlined its complete denunciation of the production of this type of weapon and the rest of the weapons of total destruction. The paper notes in this respect the speech which Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered at the chemical weapons conference in Paris, in which he affirmed that Egypt is opposed to these types of weapons and called for an international treaty to ban them completely.

AL-AKHBAR says that if this campaign against Egypt were true, it would have been supported by the Soviet Union, the United States, and all the advanced states that have the means to detect the factories that produce such weapons.

Libya

Attack on Vincennes Commander's Wife Reported
LD1103213689 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] The wife of the commander of the U.S. destroyer that fired a missile at an Iranian airliner on 3 July 1988 had a miraculous escape from death. A bomb exploded yesterday inside her car, which was then engulfed in flames.

JANA on Sessions of General People's Congress

5 Mar Proceedings
LD0603183989 Tripoli JANA in English 1633 GMT
6 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Al-Mirrikh [March] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The third committee in its afternoon session yesterday surveyed the resolutions passed by the masses of the basic people's congresses relating to the report of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau in the item of the foreign

policy, including the expose of the results of the visits paid by the leader of revolution to sisterly and friendly countries, and the results of the visits paid to great Al-Jamahiriyah by heads of governments, apart from the historic announcement by the leader of revolution on the 25th anniversary of the inception of the Organization of African Unity, as well as the following up of the implementation of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses in the field of foreign policy and the following up of the proposal of the Arab Union and the unionist steps with the other brothers.

The above committee also surveyed the report of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison on the Palestinian question including the revolution of stones, the Palestinian state and endorsing the international treaties and agreements concluded between great Al-Jamahiriyah and other countries in 1988.

The committee, in its afternoon session, surveyed the resolutions of the basic people's congresses on the U.S. threats which are frequent against the people of great Al-Jamahiriyah and the resolutions of the basic people's congresses on the draft proposal of the union between great Al-Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

The third committee concluded the surveying of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses in relation to the general reports and foreign policy.

The afternoon session was adjourned at 8 p.m. to be held at 9 a.m. today to complete the rest of the items on the agenda.

The committee entrusted with formulating the laws have started discussing the resolutions passed by the basic people's congresses in relation to the law of the authorities of the people's committees.

The first and third committees have finished the laying down of the draft formulation on the items discussing the speeches of the leader of revolution on the 19th celebrated anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution and reviewing the resolutions of the basic people's congresses formulated by the General People's Congress in its 14th session, the budgets, the general reports, and foreign policy. [passage omitted]

6 Mar Proceedings

LD0803092689 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT
7 Mar 89

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Al-Mirrikh [March] 7, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The afternoon meeting started yesterday of the General People's Congress. The item on the people's congresses in the municipalities was read to the Secretariat of this General People's Congress including the question of the delay in receiving the timetables of the activities and other memoranda to be put forward to the basic people's congresses, apart from a number of notes pertaining to the implementation of

the resolutions of the basic people's congresses. The assistant secretary of the General People's Congress has answered the question put forward to the Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

A survey was conducted (?of the) notes of the basic people's congresses on the report of the follow-up people's organ. The secretary of the people's committee of this organ answered these notes pointing out that this organ used all its potentials to present the most precise information to the rank and file of the basic people's congresses to implement the dictum: it is the people that is the overseer of itself. [words indistinct] general people's committees and the people's committees of the municipalities contributed in [words indistinct] question of the follow up people's organ.

These contributions have stressed the necessity that this organ carry out its undertakings without overlapping with those of the General People's Congress.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.15 p.m. to resume at 8.30 a.m. today.

7 Mar Proceedings

LD0803132289 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT
8 Mar 89

[Text] Banghazi, March 8 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The General People's Congress resumed its sessions at 4:50 p.m. yesterday within its 15th ordinary round at Al-Arab Medical University in Banghazi.

In its evening session yesterday, the Congress continued the questioning process it had started in yesterday's morning session.

The evening session began with reading the remarks from the basic people's congresses, reports from the people's follow-up apparatus and the General People's Congress within the context of questioning the general people's committees for public service, education, scientific research, economy, external trade, planning, information and culture, marine wealth, jamahiri mobilisation and revolutionary guidance, training and vocational rehabilitation, health and the treasury. Most remarks centered on the aspects of various mishandlings and inefficiency in all these sectors in carrying out the resolutions of the masses of the basic people's congresses.

7 Mar Evening Session

LD0803132589 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT
8 Mar 89

[Text] Banghazi, 8 March JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Members of the General People's Congress listened to the replies of the [word indistinct] of the qualitative general people's committees on the points of

the item brought forward from the basic people's congresses and the general reports put forward from the follow-up people's apparatus.

The secretaries of the general people's committees pointed out the delay in the implementation of some resolutions of the basic people's congresses clarifying in their replies some points included in the reports of the follow-up people's apparatus.

The secretaries of the people's committees have stressed in their replies that the notes brought forward from the basic people's congresses are being paid considerable attention and that the people's committees make every endeavour to implement them with the potentials available.

Then the evening session was adjourned to resume at 9 a.m. today.

GPC Sessions End 10 Mar

*LD1003153589 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT
10 Mar 89*

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Al-Mirrikh [March] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The General People's Congress concluded yesterday afternoon its 15th regular session held in the Medical Aran University in the city of Al-Bayan al-Awal—Banghazi—for the period 2-9 instant [March].

The General People's Congress, on concluding its session, formulated the resolutions of the basic people's congresses masses who have acquired power and sovereignty over the land of the great Al-Fatih revolution. These resolutions were passed at the 2nd regular session of these congresses for the year 1988.

The General People's Congress formulated the resolutions of the pan-Arab and international congresses, as well.

JANA International Editor on Chemical Weapons

*LD1103204289 Tripoli JANA in English 1642 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Mirrikh [March] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The editor of international affairs in JANA commented on the resumption of talking, via world news media, about chemical weapons. He said: It is worth recalling in this respect that the world now is governed by Geneva convention of 1925 and also it is worth asserting that this international convention was confined to the ban on the use of chemical weapons and that is why there are a number of countries in the world who produce these weapons and storing them and it is no longer a secret and not confined to a given party.

The editor added: Undoubtedly the peace loving peoples are looking forward to reaching a binding international agreement on banning and making criminal all types of

weapons of mass destruction, from development, production, storing and use and included in that are chemical weapons. This forms the basis of the stance of great Jamahiriya, in this respect, through the statements by the leader of the revolution on various occasion or as expressed by great Jamahiriya at international conferences related to this issue. But what is not acceptable and we find outside the framework of logic is to have discriminatory measures banning something for someone else while permitting it for yourself. Here we ask why is this persistence that it is the Arab countries which are, in particular, the party subjected to this ban and prohibition.

The editor of international affairs in JANA concluded the commentary by saying: Once again we reaffirm that in dealing with such issues and issuing a ruling regarding them from the point of view of legislation and codification must be international and the matter must be left to international law and the appropriate international organisations in accordance with a comprehensive viewpoint free from any discriminatory tendency.

Meanwhile no party has the right to claim unilaterally international tutelage in this respect and impose its own viewpoint as a public law on the international community.

Sudan

Reportage on Resignation of Government Ministers

Bashir Umar on New Government

*EA1003172389 Khartoum National Unity Radio Arabic
1245 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Dr Bashir Umar, minister of culture and information, has explained that consultations are in progress with political parties and unions on the formation of the new government. It is hoped that the government will be announced next Monday if these consultations progress satisfactorily.

At his meeting with foreign correspondents yesterday, the minister of culture and information said that during the present consultations, the "modern forces" had proposed that the number of ministries should be reduced to 15 or 18 and that the number of ministers of state should be curtailed. They suggested that the modern forces be represented by two ministries (?at most). On the other hand, the fact that a group of African parties signed the action program means that they will also participate in the government.

The Communist Party expressed its readiness to join the government. However, the minister said the Communist Party did not have enough parliamentary weight to qualify it for a role in central government.

Dr Bashir Umar also said that attempts were still being made to get the Islamic Front to sign the action program.

Armed Forces Submit 3d Memo

NC1103112389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT
11 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Mar (MENA)—The Sudanese political crisis reached its peak when the Armed Forces submitted their third memorandum to the State Council last night in which they demanded answers to the following three questions within 72 hours:

-Is there procrastination on the part of party leaders to emerge from the current crisis?

-Is there an intention to submit the government program, which was signed by all the political forces, to the Constituent Assembly?

-Has the government submitted the resignations of its present ministers to the State Council?

The leaders of the political parties and trade unions who signed the program of the next government submitted a memorandum to the State Council following their meeting last night. It contained an ultimatum to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to submit his government's resignation within 24 hours. Most of those who attended the meeting agreed on the need to call for civil disobedience all over Sudan if Al-Mahdi does not submit his resignation.

The mediation committee headed by retired General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the transitional Military Council, and Dr Jazuli Dafallah, prime minister of the transitional government, will hold a closed session this evening to assess the situation and adopt a decision on how to emerge from the crisis. The committee held several meetings yesterday. It met with the leaders of the parties, the members of the State Council, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the leader of the Unionist Party, the secretary of the Islamic Front, and other leaders.

According to the MENA correspondent in Khartoum, political parties, associations, and trade unions—apart from the Islamic front—have agreed on the shape of the expanded government which will be formed if the government tenders its resignation today. The new government is to contain 20 ministries besides the Prime Ministry. Seven of these are to go to the Al-Ummah Party, five to the Democratic Unionist Party, five to the southern parties, two to the newly established forces, and one to the National Party [al-hizb al-qawmi]. A national figure will be chosen to head either the Ministry of Interior or Defense.

Trade union associations have agreed that the newly formed forces should be assigned the Ministries of Transportation and Agriculture. These two ministries will be headed by figures from the general federation of Sudan's labor unions and the general federation of Sudan's farmers.

Meanwhile, highly placed sources in the Al-Ummah Party say that the new cabinet formation is expected to be announced tomorrow, Sunday. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is to deliver an important speech before the Constituent Assembly the day after tomorrow, Monday.

Al-Mahdi Given 'Ultimatum'

NC1003230289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2241 GMT
10 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (MENA)—The leaders of Sudanese parties and trade unions have decided to submit an urgent memorandum to the Sudanese State Council chairman giving an ultimatum to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to tender his cabinet resignation within 24 hours. During their 5-hour meeting in Khartoum this evening, the leaders of parties and trade unions also decided to halt all consultations between the parties and incumbent government and Al-Ummah party on the formation of a new cabinet.

During the meeting in which all political parties in Sudan except the Al-Ummah and the Islamic Front parties participated, it was also decided to call on the State Council chairman to call for an urgent meeting in the next 2 days of parties, trade union, and the Armed Forces to agree on the formation and a new expanded government and structure in the forthcoming stage.

A MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that during the 5-hour meeting the Democratic Unionist Party set forth its views on the formation of a new cabinet consisting of 20 ministries of which nine portfolios to be divided between the Al-Ummah party and the Democratic Unionist party, four portfolios for the federations and trade unions, four portfolios for the parties of southern Sudan, one portfolio for the Armed Forces, and three portfolios for the other parties from outside the constituent assembly.

25 Cabinet Ministers Resign

NC1103185889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT
11 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Mar (MENA)—This evening, the Sudanese State Council received the resignations of all 25 cabinet ministers. The resignations came in a letter to the State Council from Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The State Council is scheduled to convene tomorrow morning, Sunday, under its chairman, to consider the acceptance of the resignations to pave the way for forming a new expanded government from within and outside the Constituent Assembly.

In a statement released this evening, the State Council said the resignations came in response to the unanimous desire of the people, who had signed the provisional program of the forthcoming government. The statement called on the prime minister and the political powers to work within the next hours to complete the formation of the government, with a view of unifying the internal

front, protecting democracy, and seeking stability, so that the Armed Forces may be supported and peace, development, and progress may be achieved.

Al-Mahdi Does Not Resign

*JN1103193089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Mar (INA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi submitted the resignation of all the members of his cabinet to the State Council chairman. However, he did not submit his own resignation. This was announced in a statement by the Sudanese State Council chairmanship here tonight.

AL-WATAN Interviews Al-Mahdi

*LD1203103289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0921 GMT
12 Mar 89*

[Text] Kuwait, March 12 (KUNA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has pledged to adhere to Islamic shari'a in the new broad-based government.

Al-Mahdi, in an interview with daily AL-WATAN published Sunday, said he will seek to group all the political forces in Sudan in the new government such as Islamic Front and Ummah, Ittihad and Jabha parties.

On parties that did not sign the palace statement which included the new government program, Al-Mahdi said the Islamic Front agreement on the statement is a pre-condition for its participation in the new government.

He added that trade unions who seek participation in the new government have two options. If they join the government they will not be allowed to go on strike, the premier said, adding that otherwise they will be allowed to form a grouping that coordinates and consults with the government on means of overcoming national problems and difficulties facing the Sudan.

Head of the State Council, Ahmad al-Mirghani, last night received the resignation of cabinet ministers tendered by the Sudanese prime minister, who retained his post.

Meanwhile, State Council members met last night with Al-Mahdi to discuss developments and the current political situation in Sudan.

Al-Mahdi following last night's meeting was quoted by Egyptian Wadi al-Nil Radio as saying that he reviewed a memo he received earlier yesterday from parties and labour unions and another from the Armed Forces in which they demanded a speedy formation of the new government.

Al-Mahdi added he will issue later on a personal statement on the current situation.

The State Council will meet today to study the acceptance of the government resignation and pave the way for the new government.

The Sudanese political crisis was triggered when the Sudanese Army last month demanded the formation of a new broad-based government and endorsement of a conciliatory agreement with the southern rebels.

Al-Mahdi To Deliver Statement

*EA1203174589 Khartoum National Unity Radio
in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Mar 89*

[Text] The chairman and members of the head of states council met Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi this afternoon at the republican palace. Following the meeting, Mr al-Mahdi said that tomorrow he will deliver a statement before the Constituent Assembly on the program, formation and dates of the next government and the political organisations which will participate in it. He clarified that there was nothing new concerning contacts with the National Islamic Front.

The prime minister pointed out that his statement before the Constituent Assembly tomorrow will deal with the steps to bring in the forces not in parliament. He added that the statement will also touch on the latest peace developments, the new efforts to distribute relief supplies, and the measures already taken to strengthen the Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, the prime minister will hold a meeting at 1900 this evening with the secretaries of the central ministries at the offices of the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers. The general secretariat wants all the secretaries to attend this meeting.

Council Approves Resignations

*NC1203180989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1728 GMT
12 Mar 89*

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Mar (MENA)—The Sudanese Council of State today unanimously agreed to accept the resignation of all 25 ministers in accordance with the recommendation of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

In a statement today, the Council of State called for speeding up the formation of the new government to fill the current ministerial vacuum.

Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Council of State, and all council members signed the statement.

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will deliver an important statement at the Constituent Assembly when it meets tomorrow morning, Monday, under the chairmanship of Muhammad Yusuf Muhammad.

MENA has learned that the statement will include the next government's program of action on the basis of which the new expanded government will be announced in the next 48 hours.

Islamic Front To Sign Interim Government Program
*NC1103202689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1907 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Mar (MENA)—Members of the Sudanese State Council met this evening with Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic Front, and some of the Islamic Front's executive leaders to review the current political situation. Attempts were made to persuade the Islamic Front to sign the agreed interim program for the forthcoming government, in order to unify national ranks. The MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that the State Council is expected to hold another meeting with Dr al-Turabi and the Islamic Front leaders tomorrow morning, Sunday, during which they will sign the program. Once the program is signed, the Islamic Front will have fulfilled the condition for participating in the forthcoming expanded government.

Trade Unions Consider Role in Government
*EA0903193889 Khartoum National Unity Radio
in Arabic 1245 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The trade unions have accepted the principle of participation in the next government in accordance with the stage-by-stage program signed by the political parties. Mr Muhammad Uthman Jamma, president of the Sudan workers Trade Union Federation, said this after a meeting between the Trade Union and Mir Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the State Council. The participation of "modern forces" in the government was discussed.

Mr Jamma said the Trade Union movement recognized its national responsibility and reiterated its support for the Armed Forces so that stability and increased production can be achieved without the trade unions abdicating their responsibility or pawing their wishes to anybody.

Afghan Mujahidin Government Recognized
*EA1203172889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
2130 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry issued a statement today in which it declared official and full recognition of the Afghan mujahidin government whose formation was recently announced.

The statement said the Government of Sudan wishes to establish diplomatic representation with the Afghan government. The statement appealed to the Afghan mujahidin brothers to unite their factions and support the Afghan's desire to build national unity as a base for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The statement said the Sudan Government would strive to work with fraternal Islamic countries, friendly countries and the international community to attract political and [words indistinct] to (?assist) the Afghan state and help its reconstruction.

Western Sahara

Polisario Urges Resumption of Referendum Talks
*LD1003104689 Paris International Service in French
0630 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Excerpt] In Maghreb news, the Polisario Front issued a statement yesterday. The separatist movement has implied that it may take up arms again if Rabat does not resume direct dialogue on the arrangements for organizing the referendum planned by the United Nations in the former Spanish colony.

Polisario States Intent To Renew Military Activity
*NC1103114089 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Algiers, March 11 (AFP)—The Polisario Front, which has been fighting Morocco over the Western Sahara since 1976, neither confirmed nor denied late Friday an end to its unilateral truce in the desert war, which had been declared throughout February.

Polisario Secretary-General Mohamed Abdelaziz, who is also president of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic proclaimed by Polisario, announced on Spanish television Friday that the movement would "renew military activity on all fronts ... until a bilateral agreement on a ceasefire has been reached."

Mr. Abdelaziz did not explain the decision and a Polisario representative in Madrid said details would have to come from the front's headquarters in Algiers.

Top Polisario officials held a breakthrough meeting with Moroccan King Hassan II in January, to discuss United Nations-sponsored proposals for a referendum on self-determination in the territory, which Morocco annexed after Spanish troops left in 1976.

Polisario subsequently announced several times that a second meeting with the king would be held in February, before a summit of five North African states who set up a Maghreb Arab Union. Sahrawi leaders had also hoped to attend the summit.

The front said it had called a unilateral truce at the king's request to foster dialogue and ensure the success of the summit, where Algeria—the movement's long-time backer—Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia formally agreed to step up economic and military cooperation.

During the summit, however, King Hassan publicly dismissed the guerilla war as a "parasitical insect living off the historic lion" of the Maghreb.

On February 19, Polisario "number two" Bechir Mustapha Sayed warned that "the battles will resume" if the outlook for peace remained blocked. "It would be unrealistic to think that cooperation could flow across borders torn by war," he added.

Announces End to Truce

NC1103174889 Paris AFP in English 1722 GMT
11 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Algiers, March 11 (AFP)—The Polisario Front on Saturday said it had resumed operations against Moroccan troops in the Western Sahara, confirming a declaration by the movement's leader Friday that a month-long truce in the desert war was over.

A Polisario foreign relations spokesman, Sadik Bechir Malainine, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the front had begun fresh military action at the beginning of March, but added that Polisario was still open to negotiations over the territory, which Morocco has claimed.

Polisario Secretary-General Mohamed Abdelaziz, who is also president of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic proclaimed by the front, said on Spanish television Friday that the front would "renew military activity... until a bilateral agreement on a ceasefire has been reached."

Mr. Malainine said Saturday: "We still hope that direct negotiations will resume, either with King Hassan II (of Morocco) or one of his representatives, or under the auspices of the United Nations. We are imposing no conditions for this resumption of direct dialogue." [passage omitted]

A current visit to Morocco by Issa Diallo, right-hand man to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, could "revive" the peace process, according to Mr. Malainine. He added that Polisario was also awaiting the updating of a census in the Western Sahara, with the help of Spanish officials.

The front has been at odds with King Hassan over who should vote in the poll on self-determination, in a situation complicated by the sending of Moroccan settlers to the Western Sahara and the presence of thousands of Sahrawi refugees across the border in camps in Algeria.

Polisario leaders recently ruled out any option of a federation or other linkage with Morocco, calling for a straight "yes or no" referendum on self-determination, though Rabat and the SADR could jointly exploit the region's resources.

Resumes Military Operations

LD1003214789 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Polisario Front fighters resumed their military operations on 1 March, the date when the unilateral truce declared in January expired. This information was given by Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz who was interviewed on Spanish television. The truce was declared in order to promote the continuation of a dialogue begun with Morocco in Marrakech in January. However, since then no further meeting has taken place. More than a week ago Rabat stressed that the good-offices mission of the UN secretary general remains the only means of settling the Western Sahara problem.

Polisario Representative Remarks

LD1103135389 Paris International Service in French
0630 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The truce has been broken in Western Sahara. The POLISARIO secretary general announced it himself in an interview broadcast yesterday by Spanish television. [passage omitted] Why was the truce broken today? Here is the answer of the Polisario representative in France, Ahmed Baba Sayyid, whom Carmen Bader reached by phone:

[Begin Baba Sayyid recording] It was an expected rupture, given the fact that the truce was a unilateral decision taken by the Polisario Front for a precise objective—to encourage the dialogue started with the first Marrakech meeting between the Moroccan king and the Polisario Front, and on the other hand to allow the two parties in the conflict to find the means to resolve the five remaining obstacles to the organization of the referendum on self-determination. Thus, we hoped that the king would continue this dialogue, but unfortunately nothing has emerged to make us feel that the king has really decided to find a solution with us to remove the remaining obstacles to the organization of the referendum. [end recording]

Beida on Decision, Maghreb Union

LD1203115589 Algiers APS in Arabic 0921 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Algiers, 12 March 89, (APS)—In reply to a question put forward by the Western Desert special correspondent of the newspaper AFAQ concerning the path that should be adopted by the Polisario Front to continue the Moroccan-Saharan dialogue following the expiry of the truce that had been declared by the front, the Saharan prime minister and minister of interior and justice, Mahfoud Beida, said:

"A truce is one thing, and a cease-fire is another. The latter is tied to a political agreement, which does not yet exist.

Consequently, military activity will resume as from 28 February, the official date for the end of the truce."

Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz, confirmed the resumption of military activity in an interview broadcast the day before yesterday, Friday, on Spanish television. He also confirmed that military operations have resumed on all fronts, and that these operations will continue on a regular basis. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

In reply to a question on the dialogue with King Hassan II, the [Saharan] prime minister said: "We will continue contacts without creating delusions that cannot be accomplished. The Saharan people consider the military choice a basic one imposed upon it by its cause, pains, and convictions. [passage indistinct]

Regarding the Polisario Front's position toward the ratification of the Arab Maghreb Union [agreement], Mahfoud Beida said: "We cannot imagine a unified Maghreb, one that enjoys solidarity, without finding a solution to the problem for the Western Desert in the form of independence, even if the general inclination in the world is toward the establishment of big blocs. We are sure that an Arab Maghreb cannot be built without us." [passage omitted]

Polisario Front Delegation's FRG Visit Reviewed
LD1203125389 Algiers APS in English 1140 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, 12/3/89 (APS)—A delegation of the Polisario Front led by Ahmed Boukhari, Political Bureau member head of Europe Department stayed recently in the Federal Republic of Germany upon invitation of the Social-Democrat Party (SDP) a communique of the minister of information of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic indicated. During his visit, in FRG, the Polisario Front delegation had talks with the SDP leaders and with several political forces on the Western Sahara issue, the communique indicated. At the end of this visit the SDP issued a communique underlining that after thirteen years of war in Western Sahara, a military settlement is impossible and that it is therefore necessary to work in favour of a peaceful settlement".

The SDP always supported the Saharan people's right to self-determination and the starting of direct negotiations between the two worrying [as received] parties. All conditions for a referendum should be gathered and to reach them direct dialogue between the Polisario Front and Morocco is necessary".

The SDP also said in the communique that it invited the FRG Government to start official contacts with the Polisario Front and to exert influence on Morocco for the implementation of the UN plan and to stop supplying of Morocco with military equipment".

Bahrain

Afghan Provisional Government Recognized

JN1303101289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT
13 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Mar (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has officially announced its recognition of the provisional Islamic government in Afghanistan. This came during a meeting in Riyadh today between Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al-Khalifah with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister of the provisional Islamic government of Afghanistan, who is here for the meetings of the Islamic states' foreign ministers due to begin today. WAKH has learned that Bahraini foreign minister expressed his hope that this government will assume its prominent position within the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and resume its role as an active member contributing effectively to ICO activities.

During the meeting, the two officials reviewed the situation in Afghanistan and the achievements attained by the Afghan people under the leadership of the mujahidin.

Iran's Jannati Arrives, Discusses Rushdie

LD1203113989 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 12, IRNA—President Ali Khamene'i's envoy arrived in Bahrain Sunday carrying a message for Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah calling for a unified stand by Islamic countries on "The Satanic Verses."

Speaking at a press conference here earlier, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati regarded the publication of the novel as a cultural war against Islam.

The conspiracy should be rooted out by the unity of Muslims, said Jannati, who is a member of the Council of Guardians and head of the Islamic Propagation Organization.

President Khamene'i's other envoy, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi is on a tour of Muslim states in Africa calling on governments to take a firm stand on the issue at the next OIC meeting.

Jannati expressed hope that in the foreign ministers meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Riyadh Monday, a suitable response would be given to Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel.

The Ayatollah who held talks on the affair with the Kuwaiti amir and foreign minister, also discussed the expansion of bilateral ties.

On Iran-Saudi ties, he said the Islamic Republic was seeking to strengthen brotherly ties with all Islamic countries especially those in the neighbouring region.

Bahrain is the sixth leg of Jannati's tour which has taken him to the United Arab Emirates, Oman, North and South Yemens and Kuwait. He is to visit Qatar next.

He is carrying messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i to the heads of state underlining the need for a united stand by Muslims towards the Rushdie affair.

Meanwhile Ayatollah Yazdi, member of the Council of Guardians, in his continuing tour of Muslim, African nations, met with Nigerian president Ibrahim Babangida in Lagos Saturday.

The Nigerian president said the book had insulted the sanctities of all religions adding that Nigerian laws included punishment for those insulting Islam.

Delivers Khamene'i Message

LD1203114189 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT
12 mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i's message urging support in the campaign against "The Satanic Verses" was submitted to the amir of Bahrain Sunday.

Special envoy Ayatollah Jannati delivered the message to Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah, covering mutual ties, issues of [the] world of Islam and in particular [the] foreign ministers meeting of the OIC to start in Riyadh Monday.

Present in the meeting were Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al-Khalifah, deputy justice minister 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Muhammad Rashid and Iran's charge d'affaires to Bahrain.

Jannati, member of the Guardians Council and head of the Islamic Propagation Organisation currently on a regional tour, arrived here Sunday morning from Kuwait. He is to visit Qatar next.

'Arafat Raises Flag at 'Palestinian Embassy'

JN1203115689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Manama, 12 Mar (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al-Khalifah received here today PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The Bahraini prime minister congratulated the Palestinian leader on hoisting the Palestinian flag at the Palestinian Embassy in Bahrain and affirmed that Bahrain, while celebrating with the Palestinian people the flag-raising ceremony, expresses its full participation in this happy occasion and its firm support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to their homeland and to self-determination.

The Bahraini prime minister also voiced Bahrain's support for the extensive diplomatic moves being effected by the PLO to reach a just and durable solution to the Palestine question. His highness the prime minister also praised the valiant uprising being staged by the Palestinian people, now in its 16th month, which expresses the Palestinian people's determination to reject the Israeli occupation and demand their own independent state on Palestinian soil.

'Arafat left Manama at noon today and voiced the satisfaction of the Palestinian people over the constant backing and support being provided for the Palestine question by the State of Bahrain—amir, government, and people.

'Arafat added that he discussed with the Bahraini prime minister all issues in Palestinian affairs, foremost among which is maintaining the escalation of the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation.

The Palestinian leader went on to say that he reviewed with the prime minister the latest diplomatic developments pertaining to the Palestine question and to the convening of an international conference to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in our region and Palestine whose capital is Jerusalem.

Concluding his statement, 'Arafat voiced the high esteem held by him and the Palestinian leadership for Bahrain—amir, government, and people—and for the backing and support it has provided to Palestine on all levels.

'Arafat raised the Palestinian flag this morning in front of the Palestinian Embassy in Bahrain.

Kuwait

Iran's Jannati, Amir Discuss Relations

LD1103192489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1706 GMT
11 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 11 (KUNA)—Chairman of the Islamic Information Organization Ayatollah Jannati, currently visiting here, said he felt during his meeting with H.H. the amir and the deputy premier foreign minister great keenness on enhancement of Kuwaiti-Iranian relations.

This keenness, he added aims at going beyond mere neighbourly ties to a level of "full brotherhood in one body".

Jannati, in a press conference here Saturday [11 March], expressed his country's support to the efforts exerted by the six-man Arab League committee on Lebanon, chaired by Kuwait Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Iran, he noted, had made remarkable efforts to stop bloodletting in Lebanon and to bring about a just solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Jannati told reporters that his country seeks improvement of relations with Saudi Arabia and the rest of GCC states, noting that Tehran's ties must be good and strong with all Islamic countries.

The Iranian official, who handed a message today from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to H.H. the amir, has been on an Arab tour that has covered so far the two Yemens, the UAE and Oman.

Jannati, who is a member of the Iranian council for maintaining the Constitution, said he did not discuss with the Kuwaiti officials Iraq-Iran negotiations, but said the two sides stressed the need for removing inter-Islamic rifts.

Jannati said his talks with his highness the amir focussed on the multi-dimensional conspiracies by the Western arrogant forces on Islam, represented in publication of Salman Rushdie's "Satanic Verses".

The book, which was by no means an individual affair, was in fact a cultural war against Islam and Moslems and "was distributed to all British cultural centers worldwide", he said.

Jannati expected the foreign ministers' meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, next Monday to adopt a united and strong attitude toward the book.

He said Tehran will submit to Islamic countries in the future a formula aimed at defending Islam against all sorts of blasphemies.

Jannati denied existence of any political motivations behind Tehran's severance of diplomatic ties with London, which rejected to apologize for the insult.

"What would be the British stand, [and that of] human rights organization and Western publishing houses, if any writers accused Premier Margaret Thatcher of adultery?", Jannati wondered.

He said his country's internal situation at present is similar to that during the war, noting that Iran had exerted true efforts to achieve peace with Iraq.

Iran believes in the freedom of political activity in the country provided that it goes in harmony with the principles of the regime and national security, he said.

Jannati noted that Iran will continue its support to Afghan mujahidin, adding that Tehran has spared no effort to unify Afghan factions.

Paper Urges Better Ties With Soviet Union
*LD1103094189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0812 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Kuwait, March 11 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily has called on Arab countries to maintain balanced relations with the superpowers, indicating that it is high time to get closer to the Soviet Union.

'AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM' daily on Saturday said the Soviet Union, under Mikhail Gorbachev, had proved its sincerity in settling regional disputes with pledges to maintain the political and economic "formula" existing in every state.

"What we are concerned with as Arabs who have a crucial issue which requires them to maintain balanced friendship with an influential superpower like the Soviet Union, is to know how to benefit from these developments and to act with the logic of the present time," the paper said.

The paper said it was impossible to ignore the important fact of the necessity for rapprochement with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

"We cannot ignore the essential fact necessitating rapprochement with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to safeguard our interests and realize a required balance in the interest of our causes top of which is the Palestinian issue," it said.

"The loss of international balance is not in our interest. We suffered enough from the U.S. bias towards Israel and its unlimited support to her to continue occupying our land and violate the human rights of the Palestinians," the paper said.

"Henceforth, there is no justification for Arab reservation towards establishing full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, particularly the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, who did not maintain full relations with Moscow and other socialist countries," the paper argued.

It said those countries had adopted "clear-cut and practical" stands in support of the Arabs while some "friendly" countries in the West are still practicing Machiavellism.

Saudi Arabia

Afghan Mujahidin's Hikmatyar Arrives on Visit
*LD1103200489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1848 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Riyadh, 11 March (SPA)—Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister of the provisional Afghan government, arrived in Riyadh this evening to head his country's delegation to the meetings of the 18th ICO foreign ministers' conference, which is scheduled to begin on Monday.

He was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and by Ambassador Tawfiq Khalid 'Alamdar, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Afghans Praise Recognition
*LD1003154789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT
10 Mar 89*

[Text] Jeddah, 10 Mar SPA—A number of Afghan officials have stated that the Kingdom's recognition of the Afghan mujahidin's government has opened the door to the rest of the Islamic states and the states of the world to recognize that government. They said that the Kingdom's recognition of the Afghan mujahidin's government was based on the Kingdom's clear and well-defined policy of unlimited support for the Afghan people's fight.

These officials also indicated that the Kingdom had offered every resource to the Afghan people to enable them, God willing, to liberate their country, adding that the Kingdom was always the first to support the fight of the Muslim Afghan people.

Muhammad Shah Fazli, the minister of scientific research in the provisional Afghan government and a member of the shura, said in a statement, "we were very happy with the Kingdom's recognition of the mujahidin government." He added, "this is not unusual for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as it has played a major role in supporting the Afghan mujahidin for the entire jihad."

Mr Muhammaed Shah Fazli went on to say that he hoped other Islamic states would follow the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's example in recognizing the government of the Afghan mujahidin. He also thanked God almighty for letting the mujahidin triumph with the fall of Jalalabad, a major city. He said, "The fall of this city heralds, God willing, the beginning of the fall of other cities into the hands of the mujahidin, especially Kabul."

Mr Jalal Haqqani, chairman of the reform committee and member of the Afghan shura, said in a similar statement that "the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's recognition of the Islamic government in Afghanistan is the dream (come true) of all mujahidin, because it (Saudi Arabia) is the cradle of Islam and the base for all Islamic states."

He thanked the custodian of the two holy mosques and his highness the crown prince for this noble Muslim gesture, wishing them both success in protecting Islam and Muslims throughout the world. He added: "We are pleased that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the first country to announce recognition of us to its Muslim brethren in every state of the world, because the Kingdom is the cradle of Islam, towards which Muslims in the East and the West turn to pray."

Muhammad Yasir, a former minister of Islamic Guidance and a member of the shura, said, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's recognition is a good omen, and not

entirely unexpected." He added, "the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has always been at the forefront of Islamic causes, particularly the Islamic holy war, and it has also taken a leading position with its political recognition of the mujahidin's government."

Mr Yasir described the recognition as a gesture of political support from the government and people of the Kingdom and a most valuable step in the history of the Afghan people. He said, "This pioneering move by the Kingdom will be recorded in golden words in the history of Afghanistan's jihad." In his interview, he confirmed the fall of Jalalabad to the Afghan mujahidin, indicating that the troops of the puppet regime in Kabul were encircled by mujahidin forces, by land and in the air [as received].

Foreign Minister on Purpose of ICO Meeting
LD1203223589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Riyadh 12 Mar (SPA)—The foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, said that the opening tomorrow Monday [13 March], in Riyadh of the 18th Islamic States foreign ministerial conference under the patronage of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, indicates the interest that he devotes to Islamic causes and for the well-being of Islam and of Muslims. In a statement to SPA, his royal highness added that this conference comes after a period that has witnessed a relaxation of many problems at the international and Islamic levels, pointing out that the world has seen more rapprochement and international understanding on many regional and international issues.

In this connection his royal highness the foreign minister said that the Islamic world was seeing encouraging beginnings toward the solution of one of the most important problems that the Islamic body has suffered for many years: thanks to God, he said, thanks to the Afghan people's jihad and sacrifice, and to the understanding of the situation shown by the Soviet leadership, the Soviet forces withdrew, and the Afghan mujahidin have been able to unite. The first free and independent elections for the first shura, embracing all Afghan forces, were held. These led to the formation of the provisional Islamic government of Afghanistan. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal described that as an achievement for the people of Afghanistan heralding the beginning of a new page in the history of this people and of the Islamic Nation.

His royal highness the foreign minister added that the recognition by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the provisional government of Afghanistan is an affirmation of the Kingdom's firm policy of supporting and backing peace and stability. [passage omitted]

His royal highness the foreign minister said that as for the Iraq-Iran problem, the contacts between the two neighboring Muslim countries have had a great effect on finding a final solution to this problem in accordance with the UN Resolution 598. [passage omitted]

His royal highness the foreign minister confirmed that the Palestinian issue is the main issue on which the conference is focusing. His royal highness explained that the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation have expressed their will to regain their legitimate rights by way of its valiant intifadah [uprising], which is now entering its 2d year. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal lauded the recent resolutions by the Palestinian National Council that led to the proclamation of the Palestinian State and the subsequent Palestinian stance clarifying the path of peace based on right and justice.

His royal highness called on the United States and on all peace-loving states to enter into meaningful dialogue with the PLO so these contacts will bear fruit in the form of peace and justice in the Middle East.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that those who think that this Islamic gathering is directed against anybody are mistaken, as it is only intended to serve Islamic causes and to develop the Islamic nation's own capabilities. [passage omitted]

King Assumes Chairmanship of Saudi ARAMCO
LD1203224889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2015 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Mar (SPA)—Petroleum Minister Hisham Nazir has announced that King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has issued a royal decree regarding the formation of the higher council of the Saudi Arabian Oil Company—Saudi ARAMCO—under the king's own chairmanship.

Among the council members are: Hisham Nazir, Muhammad Aba al-Khayl [finance minister], Ibrahim ibn al-'Anqari [municipal affairs minister], and 'Umar al-Faqih [minister of state]. The council also includes 'Ali al-Nu'aymi, chairman of the Saudi Arabian Oil company, and Wuhayyib ibn Zaqar, Khalid ibn Muhfudh, Sulayman al-Fadl, and Dr Faysal al-Bashir—all from the private sector.

His excellency added that the custodian of the two holy mosques has issued another decree regarding the formation of a board of directors for the company under the chairmanship of the petroleum minister. The board members include: Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Attar, 'Ali al-Nu'aymi, the chairman of the company; Nasir Muhammad al-Ajmi, vice chairman of the company; Nabil Muhammad al-Bassam, senior vice president for financial affairs; and 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Huqayl, senior vice president for industrialization, imports, and transportation.

The board also includes Dr 'Abdallah al-Dabbagh, professor at the King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals and head of the university's research institute; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jarbu', chairman of the Amantit group of companies; Mr Clifton Garvin, former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of EXXON, formerly known as Standard Oil of New Jersey; Harold Haynes, former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Standard Oil of California, formerly known as Chevron; and Mr Rodney Wagner, vice chairman of the credit policy committee of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company in New York.

The board of directors of the Saudi Arabian Oil Company will hold its first meeting at the company's headquarters in Dhahran on Tuesday under the chairmanship of the petroleum minister.

United Arab Emirates

Justice Minister Resigns; Ministries Merged *JN1103190089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al-Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, issued a federal decree this evening accepting the resignation of Justice Minister 'Abdallah Hamid al-Mazru'i.

His highness also issued a decree merging the Justice Ministry and the Islamic Affairs and Awqaf Ministry into one ministry to be called the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs, and Awqaf. His highness also issued a decree appointing Shaykh Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Hasan al-Khazraji as minister of justice, Islamic affairs, and Awqaf.

Economic, Political Talks With PRC Begin
*JN1203142889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT
12 Mar 89*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the PRC began here today.

The Iraqi delegation to the talks was headed by Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Chinese by Tian Jiyun, State Council vice premier.

The two sides reviewed Iraqi-Chinese relations in the economic, commercial, and political fields and the possibility of Chinese companies contributing to Iraq's development projects.

The talks also dealt with the Iraq-Iran war, the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598, and the Chinese position, which calls for an end to the war through the implementation of this resolution.

Hammadi stressed Iraq's desire for peace and its strong belief in the necessity of an agreement with Iran.

He also reviewed the foundations on which the Arab Cooperation Council, which comprises Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic, was established.

Tian Jiyun expressed appreciation for Iraq's position on the issue of peace with Iran and its cooperation with the United Nations to implement Resolution No 598.

On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, and a number of officials from various ministries. On the Chinese side, the talks were attended by He Chunlin, deputy secretary general of the State Council, Lu Xuejian, vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, the PRC ambassador in Baghdad, and a number of officials from the State Council and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

President Meets PRC Official

*JN1303110589 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT
13 Mar 89*

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 13, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a written message from President Yang Shangkun of People's [Republic of] China on bilateral relations and means of developing them in various fields.

The message was delivered by Mr. Tian Jiyun, vice premier of the Chinese State Council at a meeting here today with President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by member of the Revolution Command Council and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi and the Chinese ambassador in Baghdad.

Paper Cited on POW's, Iranian Position
*JN1203110589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT
12 Mar 89*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH calls on the UN secretary general to shoulder his responsibility, which is dictated by "objectivity and fairness," and place before world opinion the results of President Saddam Husayn's initiative to effect a comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war [POW's].

The paper says that this would accurately identify the party responsible for obstructing the negotiations—the party that is procrastinating to stalemate the peace process. The paper adds that Iraq is presenting this initiative to the Iranian rulers, to the international community, and to the UN secretary general as a purely humanitarian issue devoid of any elements that might provide the other side with an excuse to oppose or reject it.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn announced on 5 March to the chairman of the International Progress Organization Iraq's readiness, for humanitarian and legitimate reasons, to effect a comprehensive exchange of POW's regardless of the outcome of the peace negotiations and irrespective of the progress in reaching a comprehensive and durable peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and the 8 August cease-fire agreement.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that President Saddam Husayn's initiative on an exchange of POW's was announced while the Iranian regime continues to obstruct the negotiations, maneuver, procrastinate, prevaricate, and violate agreements reached after much time and effort.

The newspaper adds that the Iranian rulers clearly violated the agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross on the exchange of a number of wounded and sick POW's when they changed the number agreed upon and refused thereafter to implement the agreement in its entirety. In addition, they have violated the agreement reached between Iraq and Iran through the good offices of the commander of the UN observers on the formation of a mixed Iraqi-Iranian military working group, according to the paper.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the peace initiatives announced from time to time by Iraq whenever necessary to advance the negotiations are met by the Iranian side with either flat and downright rejection or with tactical responses based on deception, maneuvers, and twisted words.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the Iranian rulers have no sense of responsibility toward peace and adds that they are using twisted means to obstruct and delay the negotiations indefinitely and to leave issues unresolved until a no peace-no war situation is reached.

The paper says that President Saddam Husayn framed the issue of the immediate exchange of POW's in clear humanitarian terms, thus precluding any possible effect on the military situation, when he indicated that pledges can be given and enshrined in an agreement to be guaranteed by the United Nations stating that repatriated POW's would not be reabsorbed into the armies of the two countries before a comprehensive and durable peace is established.

AL-THAWRAH says that world opinion is now more aware than ever before that the Iranian position, which has been obstructing the peace process, is determined by a plethora of complexes, deadlocks, and internal crises caused by the defeat of the Iranians' aggressive and expansionist policy, their irreversible defeat in the war, and their inability to make decisions and behave in accordance with the new climate of peace and normalization.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Iraq's drive for peace has been its principled, firm, and irreversible principle throughout the 8-year war and that it will continue to be so now that the Iranian rulers have been forced by their historic defeat to accept UN Security Council Resolution No 598; and now that Iraq has accepted the cease-fire and agreed to enter into direct negotiations in accordance with the agreement concluded by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The paper adds that Iraq's peace policy and its humanitarian, ethical and principled spirit, which has characterized its policies and initiatives throughout the war, have been firm and constant and unaffected by reactions even when the Iranian regime was going to extremes in its horrendous crimes and in killing Iraqi POW's on the battlefields and in camps; when it was employing the ugliest forms of physical and psychological torture against them; and also when it was shelling Iraqi cities to inflict harm on civilians.

AL-THAWRAH adds that Iraq has continued to call for peace and to respond favorably to all regional and international initiatives seeking to end the war, including of course its acceptance of all the resolutions issued the UN Security Council.

The paper affirms that Iran has persisted in its aggression, deliberately ignored peace calls, and rejected all UN Security Council resolutions using tactics and methods known to all. It adds that Iran used to escalate its armed aggression against the Iraqi territory, to intensify its attacks, and to make public its expansionist objectives and intentions regarding the occupation of Iraq after the launching of each peace initiative.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that all fair-minded people who also care for justice, peace, and freedom must understand the truth pertaining to Iraq's peace stance. Besides, the paper adds, these people must also understand that Iraq's policies, stands, conduct, methods, and measures have continued to be inspired by principles and ideals

even in the most difficult circumstances when Iraq was repulsing the aggression and fending off the danger of occupation and invasion to defend the entire nation.

The paper adds that Iraq's sincere desire to establish a comprehensive and durable peace with Iran on the basis of the full and comprehensive implementation of Resolution No 598 has become well known and can no longer be contested or doubted, as this desire has proved its credibility under all circumstances and throughout the war.

AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that the Iraqi initiative to effect a comprehensive exchange of POW's is based on purely humanitarian considerations and is representative of Iraq's humanitarian principles.

Ramadan Meets Afghan Mujahidin's Hikmatyar
*JN1103172089 Baghdad INA in English 1645 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 11, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council (RCC) member and first deputy premier, met here today Mr. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, chairman of the Afghan Islamic Party.

During the meeting, Mr. Hikmatyar reviewed latest developments in Afghanistan after the complete Soviet pull-out from the Afghan territory and acquainted Mr. Ramadan with the decision of proclaiming an interim government in which Mr. Hikmatyar would hold the Foreign Ministry portfolio.

The Iraqi RCC member welcomed the Afghan delegation and stressed Iraq's keenness on Afghanistan's unity, peace and stability to reinforce its independence and position in the region as an Islamic and non-aligned state. He also called for settling the situation in Afghanistan through dialogue and peaceful means to save the country from further losses in men and properties. The two sides agreed to pursue bilateral contacts in the future. Earlier, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister met here the Afghan official.

Foreign Cooperation Agreements Signed 9-12 Mar

Trade Agreement With Spain
*JN0903192889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT
9 Mar 89*

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)—Iraq and Spain signed the minutes of the eighth session of the Iraqi-Spanish joint committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation, here today.

Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications, signed for Iraq, while Apolonio Ruiz-Ligero, Spanish minister of state for commerce, signed for the Spanish side.

The minutes include the opening of new cooperation through Spanish firms' contribution to carrying out strategic projects in Iraq and increasing the credit facilities and grants to Iraq by 50 percent over last year. The minutes also include the increase of trade exchange and industrial cooperation, the exchange of expertise, training of cadres, and promoting bilateral ties through a new cooperation formula between Iraqi chambers of commerce and industry and their Spanish counterparts.

The Iraqi side included representatives of the ministries of trade, industry and military industrialization, housing and construction, the Iraqi central bank; and representatives of the Spanish side.

The Iraqi-Spanish joint committee began its meetings here last Saturday.

Power Project With Turkey

JN0903143489 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT
9 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 9, INA—Iraq will shortly start supplying Turkey with electric power of 480 million kilowatt/hour annually, it was announced here today.

The director general of the state enterprise for transfer and generation of electric power told INA that a joint Iraqi-Turkish technical committee would meet in Baghdad shortly to lay down the final technical and administrative measures for the operation of the power line.

He added that the project of supplying Turkey with electric power was completed in 1987 and a trial operation that was made in December 1987 proved a success.

The Iraqi official added that another project is underway for linking the electric network between Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Syria and boosting the existing ones in a way ensuring the exchange of power among them. An agreement to this effect was reached between the concerned ministers in the five countries during the meeting held in Ankara last January.

He pointed out that a joint technical committee representing the five countries met in Amman earlier this month to study matters related to the project of linking the networks of the five countries.

Trade Agreement With Cyprus

JN1003121789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT
10 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)—Iraq and Cyprus signed here today minutes on organizing trade exchanges and financial settlements between them. The minutes were signed at the end of the meetings of the third session of the joint Iraqi-Cypriot committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation.

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih signed the minutes for Iraq and Cypriot Commerce and Industry Minister Takis Nemitsas signed for his country. Muhammad Mahdi Salih and Nemitsas exchanged cordial speeches stressing the two countries' desire to promote and consolidate economic and trade cooperation. Members of the two sides of the joint committee attended the signing ceremony.

Transport Agreement With Egypt

JN1203205489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1800 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Iraq and Egypt signed minutes today of two agreements on bilateral relations in land and sea transportation. Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah signed for Iraq; Egyptian Ambassador Ibrahim 'Awf signed for Egypt.

During the signing ceremony, the minister said that the two agreements on commercial maritime cooperation and international land transport of passengers and goods will enhance the cooperation, rapprochement, and integration in accordance with Arab Cooperation Council's goals.

Ambassador Ibrahim 'Awf said that the two agreements will bolster cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

The commercial maritime transport agreement includes the provision of technical and administrative facilities for ships and shipping establishments, reduction of customs procedures, and provision of health facilities at the ports of the two countries. The agreement also stipulates that land and sea transport companies in each country implement shipping contracts concluded between the other country and Arab and foreign companies. The agreement on international land transport of passengers and goods includes the operation of direct passenger buses between Baghdad and Cairo as well as securing transport of goods between the two fraternal countries.

Water Project With Kuwait

JN1203210489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA)—Iraqi-Kuwaiti talks began here today. The two sides discussed the subject of Iraq providing Kuwait with 350 million gallons of drinking water and 200 million gallons of crude water daily as a first stage.

The Iraqi delegation to the talks was headed by 'Adnan Dawud, minister of local government, and the Kuwaiti side by Dr Humud 'Abdallah al-Raqabah, minister of electricity and water. It was agreed in principle to link the electricity grids of the two fraternal countries.

A technical committee drawn from a number of experts in both countries was set up to study the technical details of the implementation of the water and electricity projects.

On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by the under secretaries of the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization, representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture

and Irrigation, and Local Government, and representatives of Baghdad municipality. On the Kuwaiti side, the talks were attended by the under secretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water and a number of officials.

Ben-Aharon: U.S. Proposal 'Unacceptable'
*TA1303125389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 13 Mar 89*

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by moderator Yoram Ronen and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, the U.S. proposal in practice means indirect negotiations between Israel and the PLO through U.S. mediation. I suppose that such a proposal is unacceptable to you.

[Ben-Aharon] Of course it is unacceptable. First, on the report, which was leaked to THE NEW YORK TIMES: I suggest not giving too much importance to remarks made in the name of an unidentified official. It is, however, an acceptable trick before such meetings for someone in the U.S. Administration to consider it proper to send a message to the Israeli visitor by saying: You must also contribute something to create an atmosphere suitable for a dialogue that will bring about a negotiating process.

[Ronen] Tonight we will know if the leak has been verified or not.

[Ben-Aharon] There is no doubt that the U.S. Administration is looking for something to grasp to start a process in which it wants the United States—and not, for instance, the USSR—to be the leading element. We are not opposed to that. We also do not oppose a framework of understandings, to which we would also contribute, because we also have an interest in creating a suitable atmosphere for negotiations. We are, however, not prepared to accept the PLO as a partner to any deal. We have had previous experience with the PLO, and we know that negotiations with the PLO—either direct or indirect—are a development that inherently contains dangers for the State of Israel.

[Ronen] But we had a silent agreement for indirect negotiations with the PLO 1 year before the Lebanon war, and its results were not that bad.

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know what you are referring to when you say not that bad. In the final analysis, the Lebanon war did take place because the agreement was not worth the paper—although it was not written on paper. No, I believe that our previous experience shows the opposite, and this time it is much more serious. We are not talking about a cease-fire in a certain sector. This time, the PLO wants us to make a step with U.S. help, which will bring about PLO legitimacy as a partner to a political process. We keep reiterating that the PLO cannot be a partner, not only because it kills Israelis and is a terrorist organization, but because such legitimization means it will drive a wedge inside Eretz Yisra'el, into some piece of land west of the Jordan River.

[Ronen] I am now passing the microphone to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Ben-Aharon, the problem is one of time. Are we not permitting time to work against us, because Minister Arens is probably not carrying with him a detailed plan as the Americans had requested, at least according to the press? Are we, therefore, not leaving the field wide open for the Americans to launch their own initiatives? In such cases, initiatives do not always operate in our favor.

[Ben-Aharon] First, we should not totally reject a U.S. initiative. We have had problems with U.S. initiatives that did not succeed, but of all the foreign elements that could become involved in an attempt to bring us closer to our neighbors and bring about negotiations, the United States is the most preferred. I therefore do not reject any initiative. Second, we should take note of the fact that this administration is being cautious. It is not creating a stir. It first wants to hear the sides involved. I therefore believe that the first meeting with an Israeli foreign minister is the first tentative step, and only after that will the Jordanian monarch, the Egyptian king, and the Israeli prime minister come to Washington. After all that, they will start to formalize some sort of view or, if you like, plan. We do not have to go to Washington with a formalized plan.

[Ben-'Ami] But we still know that first of all, the Americans are waiting for such a plan, and second, that the same administration we are referring to is also planning to order Ambassador Pelletreau in Tunis to prompt the PLO to take the initiative in the second stage.

[Ben-Aharon] I have already said that we are not interested in anything involving Pelletreau and the PLO, and we are not prepared to be partners to any move to which the PLO will also be a partner. In reference to the expectations from us, I reiterate: Thank God, we have good relations with the new administration at all levels. Nobody expects Israel to present a written plan and place it on the table.

[Ben-'Ami] What about ideas? If not plans, then ideas?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, but we are the peace initiators. It is we and not our opponents who are interested in peace. I therefore have absolutely no doubt that Foreign Minister Arens and later Prime Minister Shamir will take ideas with them, because we have an urgent and real interest in bringing about an end to the violence and the start of the negotiating process.

[Ronen] Yosi Ben-Aharon, I think that we agree in principle with the Americans on at least one thing: They have low expectations from Arens' visit, and both we and the Americans are in no hurry.

[Ben-Aharon] I would not say that. First, we are in a hurry. Is there a single Israeli who is not interested in ending the violence and what is happening in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza, and in the start of a process that would end all that? I do not think there is. The only question is how it can be done. If the United States can help, we will be happy to accept their assistance, but not through a dialogue with the PLO.

[Ronen] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, thank you very much.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you, too.

Rabin Says 'Clear Policy' Will Influence U.S.

TA1303070089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] After the prime minister's and foreign minister's visits to the United States, we will know more about the U.S. position, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said. He believes that the United States will be influenced by Israel's unequivocal decision on the territories. Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, heard the defense minister's remarks:

[Begin Rabin recording] We must decide in which direction we want to act. We are a central factor. Everybody, especially the media, is busy speculating about the position of this or that element. First and foremost, we must state what we want and in which direction we are going. This will have a greater influence than all the speculation about the positions of other elements.

I believe that the U.S. position will be strongly influenced if the State of Israel forms a clear policy, which of course should be similar to that which I proposed on how to make progress in solving the problem. This should not be done by the use of force alone. The use of force is a means to assure that matters will move in the direction we desire. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 13 March adds that "Jerusalem has still not received any official information on the Bush administration's views on reciprocal gestures by Israel and the PLO in order to reduce tension in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and prepare the ground for peace talks. Our political correspondent was told by the Prime Minister's Office that the minute the plan reaches Israel, it will be thoroughly studied."]

Arens on Plans for Dialogue With Palestinians

TA1303060689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Minister Arens has said that the Israeli Government plans to change what he called the system of incentives in the territories to encourage Palestinian elements to talk to us. Nevertheless, he stressed that the Middle East peace process is developing

very slowly. No one aside from us is in a hurry to make peace, he said. Minister Arens was addressing the Israeli consuls general in the United States, who came to Washington for the meeting. He said we feel a commitment to launch peace initiatives in order to get the political process going, but, in his words, it takes two to tango, and at present the PLO is not a partner for such a move.

'Sources' Term Proposed 'Arafat Visit 'Gimmick'

TA1303072789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 13 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] Well-placed sources in the Prime Minister's Office last night dismissed 'Arafat's proposal to come to Jerusalem as "another gimmick in a series of gimmicks, devised by 'Arafat over the recent months.

"These tricks might impress someone abroad but not here in Jerusalem," added the sources. "We will not be fooled by 'Arafat's maneuvers."

2 'Terrorists' Killed in Lebanon Security Zone

TA1203084389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830
GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Two terrorists were killed last night in an encounter with an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) unit in the security zone in Lebanon. Our forces sustained no casualties. An IDF unit operating on the border of the security zone, north of Hasbaya in the eastern sector, encountered a terrorist squad last night. The unit opened fire, killing two terrorists.

3 'Terrorists' Die in IDF Clash

TA1303083889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0755 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Three terrorists were killed in a clash with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in the security zone. There were no casualties among our forces. An IDF unit last night detected a terrorist squad moving some 800 meters from Mays al-Jabal in the central sector of the security zone. The force opened fire, killing the terrorists. Menahem Horowitz reports from the north:

[Begin Horowitz recording] The clash occurred northeast of the village of Mays al-Jabal in the security zone. Our forces did not suffer any casualties. The terrorists began to flee, and the IDF troops chased after them. Aircraft lit up the skies over southern Lebanon for many hours as wide-scale searches were conducted. At the same time, a high-level alert was declared in the northern border settlements. Sabotage equipment was found in the terrorists' possession. Terrorists are active in this area, and it is possible that local residents are cooperating with them as they make their way to the Israeli border. [end recording]

Our military correspondent 'Amos Har'el points out that some 30 terrorists have been killed in clashes with IDF and South Lebanese Army soldiers in the security zone since the beginning of the year. Two terrorists, members of Ahmad Jibril's organization, were killed yesterday in a clash with the IDF north of Hasbayya. During the past 2 weeks, there were clashes in all three sectors of the security zone: eastern, central, and western. Since the beginning of the year, terrorists affiliated with Habash, Hawatimah, Jibril, and Tal'at Ya'qub have been killed. Our forces did not suffer any casualties in any of the incidents.

Peled Comments on 12 Mar 'Terrorist' Incident
TA1303104089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The three terrorists killed last night in southern Lebanon belonged to the organization called the Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Tal'at Ya'qub. They had apparently planned to carry out an attack on one of the northern settlements.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe, who is at the scene of the clash, reports that the squad was first sighted by an Israel Defense Forces unit around midnight, and the initial encounter occurred before dawn about 1 km northwest of Kibbutz Manara. The squad was killed at close range in a clash that lasted approximately 30 minutes. Leaflets, barbed wire cutters, and various weapons, such as LAW [light antitank weapon] missiles, Kalashnikov rifles, hand grenades, and ammunition, were found near the terrorists' bodies.

Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, who arrived at the site of the clash, told our correspondent there has been intensive activity by all the terrorist organizations in all sectors. He said that last night's incident marks a new step within the same framework. The aims of the organizations have not changed: They want to attack Israeli settlements, which they consider attractive targets. We must prepare for what is yet to come, Maj Gen Peled said.

2 Soldiers, 4 Lebanese Wounded in Security Zone
TA1003163889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] This afternoon a roadside bomb went off north of Marj 'Uyun in southern Lebanon, bruising two Israel Defense Force [IDF] soldiers. Four Lebanese residents were also wounded, two of them suffering serious wounds. One of the Lebanese was flown to Rambam hospital in Haifa. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the explosive device, weighing some 30 kg, went off in the security zone when an IDF convoy passed.

Lubrani Warns Against 'Hostile' Acts in Lebanon
TA1003184089 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by an unidentified correspondent, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; date and place not given—videorecorded]

[Text] [Lubrani] Israel has always treated the Lebanese Army properly. If the aim of the units that have gone south is to enforce law and order and increase the feeling of safety in the areas where they operate, we can only bless them for it. I want to say, however, that if it becomes apparent that these units are a source of hostile activity against us, Israel will have to deal with them the way it does with any hostile element in the security zone and on our northern border.

[Correspondent] Concerning the security zone, and in relation to the Lebanese Army movements and the recent incidents with the UN Norwegian contingent, there is talk in Beirut today that the security zone has deteriorated. Is this really the case?

[Lubrani] There has been no deterioration in the status of the security zone. I believe that all parties operating in the region know the rules of the game. Anyone who breaks those rules knows that he will have to face the consequences. I would like to stress that the Israel Defense Force feels free to act anywhere in the security zone, against any threat to our northern border, and will not be prevented from performing its duty of guarding our border. This is their goal and we will use all means toward this end. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Refuses Comment on U.S. Protest
JN1003161089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab
World 1530 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] In Damascus, Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], a Syrian satellite, this afternoon refused to comment on the strongly worded protest the United States last night made to Syria because PFLP-GC gunmen held two employees of the U.S. Embassy in Damascus for 8 years [as heard].

PFLP-GC spokesman Fadl Shururu told REUTER that his organization currently has no comment on this subject. He added that the PFLP-GC may issue a statement to this effect tomorrow.

No comment in this regard has been made so far by the Syrian Government.

Palestinian Attorneys Suspend Strike for 2 Months
JN1203122889 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Arab attorneys working in the Israeli courts of the West Bank have decided to suspend the strike they announced approximately 2 months ago and to resume their defense in the military courts as of 12 March. This decision came during a meeting held by the Arab attorneys today in an East Jerusalem hotel. Our correspondent Fayiz 'Umar says the Arab attorneys decided that the strike will be suspended for 2 months. They also decided to assign a committee consisting of some members to inform the specialized authorities of the contents of today's decision. They urged the authorities to meet their demands.

[Begin recording] [Bahjat al-Tamimi, chairman of the Arab Attorneys Committee] The general meeting of the attorneys today adopted several decisions. These include: Firstly, suspending the strike, which began at the beginning of January 1989, starting 12 March, 1989, for a period of 2 months on condition that the activities of the Arab Attorneys Committee will monitor the procedures adopted before the military courts in the West Bank. At the end of this period, there will be another general meeting of the attorneys to evaluate whether the authority—the occupation authority—has executed what it committed itself to and promised to implement for the attorneys and their demands.

[Fayiz 'Umar] Do you not believe that an injustice has been done to the detainee during the strike because there has been no one to defend him?

[Abd 'Asali, an attorney] I refute this claim and this false concern over the interest of the detainee. We, as attorneys, are the first people who are concerned about the interests of the detainee. The aim of the strike was to preserve the position of the attorney and his work.

[Fayiz 'Umar] Mr Bahjat, the strike you staged for 2 months was explained by the authorities as a political strike. What is your comment?

[Bahij al-Tamimi] Only the defense minister explained this as a political decision. It was the explanation he offered at first. He even mentioned in the Knesset, when he gave this explanation, that the demands are not on his table. I am surprised how he could offer this explanation without knowing the demands. However, in the final analysis and after we managed to show the reasons for and demands of the attorneys and detainees and the suffering which the attorneys, detainees, and their families are going through, it became clear that these demands are professional ones. Due to these reasons, the military public prosecutor in the military courts decided to adopt our demands. He promised personally, since he is responsible for the judiciary, to implement these demands. [end recording]

Border Police Extend Operations in West Bank
TA1203064189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] As part of the intention to decrease the presence of the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] in towns and villages in the territories and to lower friction with the local population, Border Police units will gradually replace IDF units in towns and refugee camps. At the same time, the IDF will continue to be responsible for day-to-day security, and Border Police units will be incorporated in the overall activity.

Seven Border Police companies are active in Judea and Samaria, under the command of Chief Superintendent Yisra'el Bilenfeld. As of this morning, a new Border Police command is beginning operations in Qalqilyah, where border policemen will operate in place of IDF reserve units. Regular and reserve forces will be subordinate to the new command as necessary. In this framework, another Border Police company will be introduced into Ari'el in about a week. This company is slated to operate on the trans-Samaria road to answer security needs in the area. A Border Police company was introduced into Bethlehem about 2 months ago.

In this new deployment the forces will be more mobile and will act according to developments in the area. It will also be possible to alert them to take care of disturbances anywhere and at any time. As may be recalled, Border Police forces have redeployed in the Gaza Strip as well. Border policemen, according to Border Police commanders, are especially trained in policing and in dispersing demonstrations, and can bring about calm and prevent friction with the Arab population in a more effective manner. The soldiers are well-trained for activity in the territories from the mental and legal points of view, too. Border policemen already drill in policing and dispersing demonstrations, senior Border Police officers note.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Several Wounded 10 Mar
TA1003172789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] A youth who tried to snatch a soldier's gun was shot and wounded in the Nabulus casbah this afternoon. The soldiers in the patrol treated the youth and took him to a hospital. Another resident was wounded in the casbah during a stone-throwing incident.

Five Hebron residents were wounded when stone throwers were dispersed.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Gaza residents claim that three inhabitants of the Zaytun neighborhood were wounded when a demonstration was being dispersed. A military spokesman in the Southern Command said that a general strike was staged today in Gaza and that there were no casualties in the area.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT reports that "The security forces placed Janin under curfew last night following disturbances there. Refugee camps near Janin have also been placed under curfew."]

Rafah Resident Killed

TA1003182289 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1800 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Excerpt] A resident of the Rafah refugee camp, Zuhayr al-Hamas, 24, was shot in the stomach. He later died in the Khan Yunus hospital. His family has taken his body from the hospital. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the army is investigating the circumstances of the event. [passage omitted]

5 Hurt in Gaza, 4 in Hebron

TA1103135489 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Five Gaza residents were wounded by Israel Defense Force [IDF] soldiers' gunfire during the dispersal of riots today. The five were taken to hospitals in the city for treatment. The IDF spokesman's office reports that they know of two Gazans who were slightly wounded by plastic bullets.

The IDF investigation has found that 15-year-old Zuhayr al-Hamas was killed yesterday in the Rafah refugee camp.

Our correspondent Moti Amir says that Hebron hospitals report that four locals have been slightly wounded. They appear to have suffered wounds from rubber bullets.

Detainee on List Released

TA1103140889 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Zaha' Jaradat, an employee of the Al-Haq human rights organization in Ramallah, was released from a year-long administrative detention yesterday, just one day before Amnesty International was to declare him a prisoner of conscience.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Amnesty International announced on Thursday that Jaradat's name would appear on a 50-name list of prisoners of conscience around the world, and called upon U.S. President Bush to act for his release.

Firebombs Thrown in Jerusalem

TA1203053289 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in English*
0500 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Four firebombs were thrown before dawn at a Border Police patrol in the Wadi al-Jawz quarter in Jerusalem. No one was injured and there was no damage. The four firebombs smashed on the road, but only two caught fire. Security forces are combing the area.

Curfews Lifted in Gaza

TA1203072589 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
0700 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] A carpentry [shop] owned by Samir 'Udda, head of the Hablah local council, burned down in Qalqilyah this morning.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that 24 detainees were released from the Al-Zahiriya jail over the weekend. The Civil Administration spokesman said that this was in response to requests by the detainees' families, and that in the future, too, the Civil Administration will respond to similar requests. Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that the Al-Zahiriya detention facility is known for its overcrowded conditions.

The curfew was lifted this morning from the Jabalyah and Al-Shati' refugee camps as well as from the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza and the Shabura neighborhood in Rafah.

Soldier Stabbed in Bethlehem

TA1203091289 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
0900 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] An Israel Defense Forces [IDF] soldier was stabbed in Bethlehem this morning, sustaining somewhat serious injuries. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the incident occurred during a routine IDF patrol. The security forces have launched searches, closing off the area and barring journalists from entering.

Arab Hurt in Clash With IDF

TA1203121489 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1200 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] An Arab youth was wounded in the village of Si'ir in the Hebron area at noon today in a violent clash with Israel Defense Forces soldiers. He was taken to the hospital. Our correspondent cited military sources on this incident.

Soldier's Attacker Captured

TA1203134289 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The army has captured the Arab youth who stabbed a soldier in Bethlehem today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the soldiers, who were on a routine patrol in the city, saw the soldier struggling with

a young man. The soldiers fired at the attacker and struck him with three rubber bullets. They subsequently arrested the injured assailant. [passage omitted]

Attorneys Returning to Work

TA1203054189 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
0500 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Attorneys for defendants in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are returning to work this morning after a strike of 2 and 1/2 months. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in a meeting with the military advocate general they were promised that an attempt will be made to improve conditions in the military courts in the near future.

Firebomb Thrown in Ramallah

TA1103081289 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
0800 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] A firebomb was thrown at an army vehicle in Manara Square in downtown Ramallah. There were no casualties, but the vehicle was slightly damaged. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Israel Defense Forces have begun searches in the area.

2 Wounded in Gaza Riots

TA1103121489 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1200 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Two local inhabitants were wounded in Gaza today as Israeli army troops dispersed rioters in the Zaytun and Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhoods. Our correspondent Hasan Abu Zayid reports that the two were taken to Al-Ahali Hospital in Gaza.

Opening Schools 'Contemplated'

TA1203172689 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1700 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Five local inhabitants were wounded today in clashes with Israeli soldiers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a woman was wounded in Nabulus, and an Arab youth was severely wounded in the village of Si'ir in the Hebron area and taken by helicopter to a hospital in Israel.

In the Gaza Strip military sources report on three people who were slightly wounded by plastic bullets, but local inhabitants say seven people were wounded.

The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria is contemplating the reopening of schools in the area, initially primary schools, but a decision on the matter will be made only toward the end of the week. Our correspondent reports that the Civil Administration has recently received numerous petitions signed by local inhabitants asking for the reopening of schools, which have been closed for a long time.

Stone Thrower Gets 2-Year Term

TA1203203789 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
2000 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] The military court in Gaza today sentenced a 16-year-old youth from the Al-Shati' refugee camp to 2 years in prison. The youth was convicted of throwing stones at an army patrol in the camp approximately 2 weeks ago.

Attorney for Detainees Put Under Detention

TA1303084289 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
0800 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Tulkarm Attorney Muhammad Shadid, who has defended detainees in security trials, has been put under administrative detention for 6 months. Last year he was put under administrative detention for 3 months.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfews on Janin and the surrounding refugee camps, as well as on several Rafah neighborhoods, continue. Workers from the Gaza Strip left as usual for their jobs in Israel.

Palestinians Receive New ID's Limiting Movement

TA1303110989 *Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST*
in English 13 Mar 89 p 10

[ITIM report]

[Text] The Civil Administration recently issued special identity cards to dozens of Palestinians suspected of organizing disturbances and of subversive activity, security sources said. Bearers of the new green cards are not permitted to cross the Green Line into Israel proper.

The Civil Administration has asked employers in Israel not to hire West Bankers who hold such cards. The police, working in conjunction with the Civil Administration, will enforce the new regulations in Israel and warn that anyone who violates them will be prosecuted.

King Husayn Arrives in London for Visit 12 Mar
JN1203073489 Amman Domestic Service in English
0530 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Excerpt] His majesty the king arrived in London last night from The Hague for a visit of several days. [passage omitted]

Al-Rifa'i Speaks on Economic Situation
JN1003103889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
10 Mar 89 p 4

[Report by Ziyad al-Shillah on a speech by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i to the national committee of the International Chamber of Commerce at the Plaza Hotel in Amman on 8 March]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has affirmed that the social and economic factors that Jordan now enjoys put it at the forefront of developing countries. He pointed out that over the past few years, Jordan has made large strides toward creating the favorable conditions for the dynamic movement of the Jordanian economy to attain our objectives in the nineties, which have been outlined by His Majesty King Husayn in his comprehensive development charter.

Al-Rifa'i explained that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] has given the Jordanian market a pan-Arab dimension and that it must arrange its affairs accordingly. He added: We also must approach the Jordanian economy as a regional center that can serve neighboring economies in commodities and services. He emphasized the role of the private sector in supporting the national economy and in promoting and marketing Jordanian commodities and services abroad in line with the ACC's objectives of attaining Arab economic integration among ACC members.

Al-Rifa'i stressed that the Jordanian economy is free and that the government does not interfere in it without urgent need. He said: The less the government interferes, the better the economy will be.

Al-Rifa'i said that the Kingdom's hard currency revenues are sufficient for, and even exceed, private sector needs and public sector imports. He explained that the only shortage in the field of hard currency is the shortage dealing with servicing foreign debts.

Al-Rifa'i noted that Jordan enjoys a spotless reputation and credibility on the world level. He affirmed that Jordan has always fulfilled its financial obligations. He said that \$930 million were settled in 1988 to service foreign debts, not to mention that \$2.7 billion were settled over the past 3 years for the same purpose. He stressed that all the sums that were paid came from national revenues. He said: We are currently seeking to reschedule our foreign debts in a manner that will enable us to service the public debts.

Al-Rifa'i said that the dinar's rate of exchange has started to improve and to stabilize. He pointed out that the government did not determine the rate of exchange of the dollar and that the exchange rates have been agreed between the central bank and the Jordanian banks.

Al-Rifa'i said that the remittances of Jordanians abroad have not noticeably decreased, stressing that the government attaches special importance and care to the expatriates and that political and economic stability along with the good investment atmosphere that Jordan now enjoys will increase the expatriates' remittances.

Al-Rifa'i said that the government will continue to subsidize basic commodities with approximately 60 million dinars to ease the burden on the citizens. He stressed the citizen's role in regulating his consumption, thus helping the government squeeze public expenditure.

The prime minister was speaking at a meeting on 8 March with the chairman and members of the Jordanian national committee of the International Chamber of Commerce at the Plaza Hotel in Amman. The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Hannah 'Awdah, Justice Minister Riyad al-Shak'ah, Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba', Supply Minister Dr Fayiz al-Tarawinah, and Central Bank Governor Husayn al-Qasim. He said that the government does not interfere, through the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], in selling or buying hard currency. If a shortage of hard currency occurs at certain times, he added, then it is a result of an increase in demand during those times. The process is that of control and rationalisation. He pointed out that the Kingdom's hard currency income is sufficient to meet the needs of the private sector and the imports of the public sector.

Al-Rifa'i said the shortage of hard currency is related only to foreign debt service. He added: This debt was incurred on the basis that the Arab countries committed themselves in the Baghdad [1978] summit to pay Jordan an amount of \$1.25 billion annually for a period of 10 years. From the time this commitment was made, the government has undertaken development and infrastructure projects in addition to purchasing the arms necessary for defending the Kingdom. Payments are usually made over a number of years. The government took into consideration that yearly installments and foreign debt interest should not exceed the installments that the Arab countries promised at the Baghdad summit to pay Jordan in support for its position on the longest confrontation line with the enemy. But very regrettably, these sums arrived in full for only 1 year, and then began to decrease gradually. There were repeated promises to honor the commitments, but this did not happen. The commitment was reiterated in the Amman reconciliation and accord summit and the Algiers summit, and we are in constant contact with the concerned Arab countries to make them meet these promises.

However, the prime minister said, we eventually arrived at a point at which we could no longer link the future of the Kingdom to promises alone. We thought that we should, instead, rely on ourselves and our own capabilities. The shortage of hard currency, therefore, was caused by several factors. But our credibility on the international level has continued to be good, and we honor our obligations punctually. Last year, we paid \$930 million in installments to service foreign debt, and over the past 3 years, we paid \$2.7 billion. All these amounts came from the Jordanian national income and our own capabilities and services. The government, added the prime minister, is currently seeking to reschedule foreign debts and loans in a way that helps us serve general debts.

The prime minister referred to what some see as a contradiction between public spending rationalization and subsidizing essential commodities and to the view that if the government wants to reduce the deficit then it should not subsidize the essential commodities. He said what has happened is that the prices of essential commodities have increased in the countries of origin and as a result of the decline in the value of the Jordanian dinar. The government, he explained, subsidizes essential commodities to the amount of 60 million dinars, with wheat subsidized by 30-40 million, sugar by 10 million, and rice by 6 million. He said the government is more able than the citizens to bear this burden. The decision to continue subsidizing essential foods takes into consideration the interests of both the citizens and the government. The great burden should lie on the shoulder of the state treasury, with citizens bearing as little of the burden as possible.

Al-Rifa'i announced that the CBJ will finish studying the money exchange companies during the next week. He explained that the CBJ is currently studying each company individually, taking into consideration the rights of individual shareholders. He said that when all cases have been studied and the picture has become fully clear in so far as assets and rights of shareholders and other individuals are concerned, everybody will regain his full rights. The sums found in the money exchange companies will be returned in full, but in Jordanian dinars, not in hard currency, of course.

Al-Rifa'i added that if some banks ask their clients to secure the hard currency they need to open letters of credit or documentary credits, this is an explicit violation. He added that banks are not permitted to ask importers wishing to open a documentary credit to secure the hard currency required. The bank is the party that should secure hard currency. No bank has any right to rationalize the import operation. This conflicts with the bank's interests, as this will limit its business and the size of the charges it imposes on such operations.

Al-Rifa'i explained that the government opposes the state's rationalizing consumption. This must be left to the private sector and to the importers. He pointed out

that the government had no alternative but to ban imports until the end of this year, 1989. This decision was difficult to make and I hope that the causes that led to such a measure will be eliminated at the end of this year, and imports are again allowed. No restrictions will be imposed on importation then, but there must be some logic in the importation operation and it must be rationalized. Importation must take place in stages, as it is illogical to permit the import of consumer goods that will meet the needs of the market for the next 3 years to come, which some importers have attempted. They have done so in the belief that prices will increase, and they can make large profits. He noted that in some cases importers have imported more than they needed and asked for large sums of hard currency to do it. He said that in the past, the importers distributed the sum of their documentary credits by opening half of this credit with banks and the other half with money exchangers to avoid half the custom duties. He stressed that all parties must cooperate because the bank operates only within the limits of the hard currency it has available.

Al-Rifa'i affirmed that remittances by Jordanians abroad have not noticeably decreased. He said that 75 percent of these remittances are to sustain the expatriates' families in Jordan. The remaining 25 percent are used as deposits, savings, and investments. He said that the decrease in the remittances of this 25 percent has nothing to do with the Jordanian side. The opposite is true. Investment opportunities still exist in Jordan, not to mention the many investment incentives. The decrease in expatriate salaries, the financial difficulties of oil countries, worldwide price increases and inflation have all lowered expatriate savings in comparison with the past.

Al-Rifa'i said the volume of remittances has not been affected. There were some slight decreases, or differences in 1986, 1987, and 1988 with respect to these remittances. Sometimes we see a decrease, and at other times an increase in these remittances. Al-Rifa'i said the government pays special attention to the expatriates, and is in constant contact with them. He said that a few months before the government made the decision to close down the money exchangers, the expatriates' remittances through the banks decreased as a result of the high prices the money exchangers used to give them. This led to the transfer of hard currencies abroad. However, following the official measures against the money exchangers the level of these remittances returned to normal.

Al-Rifa'i said that the expatriates conference will be held in June. The expatriates will be informed about the economic situation. He emphasized that the political and economic atmosphere and stability that Jordan now enjoys will encourage expatriates to increase their remittances to Jordan.

Al-Rifa'i denied that one of the causes of Jordan's recent problems is due to the decrease or suspension of remittances from abroad or to the PLO's having withdrawn its

deposits. He said that the PLO had no deposits in Jordan. Even if it had, it would have the right to withdraw them at any time it wished. [passage omitted]

Foreign Trade Figures Increase in Jan, Feb

JN0703091889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
7 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—Jordan's foreign trade made remarkable progress in the first 2 months of this year. Jordan's exports in January and February totaled 43 million dinars against 28 million dinars during the same period last year. Imports in January and February totaled 52 million dinars against 65 million dinars during the same period last year.

Finance Ministry Bans 250 Foreign Companies

JN1103164089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] The Ministry of Finance has issued a decision banning dealings with 250 foreign companies in accordance with the provisions of the unified Arab law on the boycott of Israel. The decision also lifts the ban imposed on 120 foreign companies after they have rectified their positions in conformity with the provisions of the Arab law on the boycott of Israel.

Editorial on 'Satanic Verses' Controversy

JN0503090289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5 Mar 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Let the Rule of Law Reign"]

[Text] It is a foregone conclusion that Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" is intolerably offensive to Islam and irreversibly repugnant to the essence of Islamic teachings and precepts. What is more, the whole affair of that diabolical book has reactivated age-old religious and intellectual intolerances towards the Muslims that are reminiscent of the dark days of the Crusaders.

The irony of all this is that the whole debacle could have been nipped in the bud had it been handled legally right from the start. In every country where the book was published there is a sufficient body of domestic laws that prohibits any publications or utterances that tend to ridicule or defame religion. The promotion of religious tolerance is an organic law deeply embedded in domestic and international legislations. Practically, all jurisprudences worldwide have construed the edict of religious tolerance to include the prohibition not only of any attack, slander or defamation against any religious belief, but also of any word or deed which touches negatively on religious sensitivity. International fora on human rights have more than enough references to the need to accord reverence to religions and to afford them protection and respect. Thus, on the strength of the laws of each and every country where the book in question was published and distributed, legal proceedings could have been taken to stop the acts of blasphemy committed against Islam as maliciously portrayed in Rushdie's book.

The chain reaction of acrimonious and vengeful events that ensued on state level from Rushdie's debacle could have thus been broken. Above all the diplomatic row that developed in the aftermath of the publication of the book could have also been avoided. If legal recourse to stop the dissemination of falsehoods on Islam prove to be insufficient, then the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) would become seized with the issue to adopt the necessary and appropriate policies regarding any country which frustrates the legal process.

As for Salman Rushdie, his fate should have been addressed by an Islamic tribunal as a deterrent to all others who may contemplate violating Islam. To be sure, Islam's ways are not the cowboy ways. Islam does not call for dispatching a posse to lynch infidels. Nor does Islam offer bounties for the heads of the enemies of Islam. Islam is a religion of grandeur that applies the most sophisticated systems of justice. Muslims do not wish to molest the image of true Islam in the process of redeeming the wrongs committed against it.

Junblatt Renews Attacks Against Al-Huss, 'Arafat
NC1003165389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 mar 89

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, [PSP], today renewed his attack against Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, denouncing his coordination with General Michel 'Awn's isolationist government. Junblatt said that he opposes Salim al-Huss as prime minister, adding: We are all equal in this government.

Minister Junblatt made these statements during an interview which was broadcast today by the Arabic branch of France International radio. PSP leader Walid Junblatt strongly assailed Yasir 'Arafat, accusing him of panting after total capitulation.

Answering a question, Junblatt said: We reject 'Arafat's threats to resume the military operations against Israel from south Lebanon. Let 'Arafat go ahead with his capitulationist operation. We reject the return of the 'Arafat adventurers to Lebanon. 'Arafat tampered with national security in Lebanon during the Israeli incursion in 1982. He pants after total capitulation, but he will get nothing in return.

In his interview with France International radio, Minister Junblatt pointed out that neither he nor Syria are compelled to hold a dialogue with 'Arafat. He emphasized that 'Arafat will be tried not only by the Arab people but also by the Palestinian people.

Army Intercepts, Directs Ship to Beirut Port
NC0903174889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] A short time ago, the Army Command's Guidance Directorate released the following statement: At approximately 1600 today, the vessel "Ghazli Mitti Istambul" was monitored cruising illegally in Lebanese territorial waters. An Army Coast Guard boat, supported by an Air Force helicopter, intercepted the ship and led it to the port of Beirut at 1725. The joint Naval Operations Room command asked the competent authorities to give the ship permission to dock and to conduct the relevant legal procedures.

PSP Naval Activities Off Beirut Coast Observed
NC1003205389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1945 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Gunmen of the Progressive Socialist Party were observed today engaging in naval activities in the sea off West Beirut. The joint naval-air operations room resumed its activities for the fifth consecutive day. It monitored the navigation movement in the Lebanese territorial waters to prevent ships from entering the illegitimate ports in implementation of the cabinet's decision.

BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY said that members of the Syrian occupation forces in West Beirut were seen carrying SAM-7 missiles and scanning the sky over the area to confront any Lebanese Air Force plane which might attempt to intercept the ships sailing toward the Al-Awza'i and Khaldah ports.

Circular Calls Beirut, Juniyah Ports 'Insecure'
NC1203215589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] The Maritime Transport Department in the Ministry of Public Works has announced that navigational movements to and from Beirut and Juniyah ports are insecure as a result of the escalation practiced by the Al-Yarzah command in the Lebanese territorial waters and sky. The department emphasized to the transport and insurance companies at home and abroad to abide by this circular as of today for public safety.

Ma'luf Announces 'Temporary Closure' of Airport
NC1203072789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Major General Edgar Ma'luf announced the temporary closure of Beirut airport yesterday to safeguard air traffic, passengers, and installations. However, an official source at the airport was quoted last night as saying that the responsible authorities at Beirut International Airport are continuing to ensure normal air traffic to and from the airport. The authorities stress that the situation in and around Beirut airport is stable as a result of the presence of the Lebanese Army and the Arab deterrent forces only.

The deputy director of the airport said last night that traffic at Beirut airport was normal and that he had not received any instructions from Walid Junblatt, minister of public works in the Al-Huss government, contrary to this.

Al-Rasi Calls Move 'Capricious'
NC1203095589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has stated that Major General Edgar Ma'luf's military decision to close Beirut International Airport to air traffic does not concern us at all. Minister al-Rasi said that he has given his instructions to the pertinent authorities at Beirut airport to continue normal work, without paying attention to such capricious decisions. He warned against any foolish action by Al-Yarzah [the Defense Ministry] to shell the airport, declaring: If this happens we will reconsider the matter.

Flight Suspension Questioned

NC1203112789 (Clandestine) *Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 12 Mar 89*

[Excerpts] Contacts were held today with the airline companies which were scheduled to have flights to and from Beirut airport to find out the reason for suspending the flights. Company officials stated that the reason is not due to the decision to close the airport, but to safeguard the passengers and aircraft in the light of yesterday's threats and shelling. [passage omitted]

Senior officials of the Middle East Airline company are holding a meeting now to discuss ways to deal with the situation resulting from the 'Awn clique's blockade of the ports and public utilities.

MEA Orders 'Temporary Suspension'

NC1203135789 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1318 GMT 12 Mar 89*

[Text] The Middle East Airlines [MEA] company has issued a statement saying that in light of the decision to close Beirut International Airport, the international insurance companies contacted the MEA company and informed it of the temporary suspension of the insurance of the company's travelers and aircraft until the situation becomes clear.

On the basis of the above, the MEA company regrets to announce the temporary suspension of its flights in order to pave the way for resuming contacts with the sides concerned in addition to the insurance companies. We hope, the MEA announcement adds, that these contacts will produce quick positive results. Therefore, the company requests the honorable travelers to follow the media reports to keep abreast of the developments which the company's subsequent statements will explain.

Junblatt Denounces Closure

NC1203152489 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Mar 89*

[Text] Commenting on the halting of air traffic at Beirut Airport, Minister Walid Junblatt said today: The military clique is taking us back to the whirlpool of war. He said that General 'Awn has closed the airport for no good reason. Junblatt added: We want Al-Jiyah Port legitimized. Prime Minister al-Huss had issued instructions to establish customs posts in Al-Jiyah and Al-Mudawwar Ports as a prelude to their legitimization.

Junblatt maintained that there is an internal flaw in the military establishment, saying: There is a group of officers and men who do not approve Michel 'Awn's policy and who do not want to remain always under the control of the militia's party in the eastern area. They tried to mutiny, [hawal al-intifidah] but Major General 'Awn aborted their attempt after Samir Ja'ja' paid him the price for this.

In conclusion, Junblatt said: There are some who believe in unifying the military establishment by directing their guns toward the western area and more precisely, to the mountain area. The legitimization of Halat Airport might be one of the reasons behind closing Beirut Airport.

Junblatt Urges Flight Resumption

NC1203181589 (Clandestine) *Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 12 Mar 89*

[Text] A statement was issued today by the office of Walid Junblatt, minister of public works. The statement said that minister Junblatt had held a series of contacts with the civil aviation and national airlines authorities. It transpired from these contacts that the only reason for the air traffic standstill at Beirut International Airport over the last few hours was the threatening statement issued by the Al-Yarzah [Army] command and its impact on insurance companies abroad.

The statement added that the minister of public works stresses that Beirut International Airport is open to flights and that the security and technical facilities in and around the airport are available. Thereupon, he calls on the national and foreign airlines to resume their normal flights without any delay, in order to safeguard the people's interests and in a bid to keep open the communications between Lebanon and the rest of the world.

Al-Khatib on Closure, Ports

NC1303065789 *Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Mar 89*

[Text] Responding to General 'Awn's decision to close Beirut airport, Sami al-Khatib, acting army commander staff major general said: We are only committed to Dr Salim al-Huss' cabinet's decisions in this regard. We neither accept orders from Gen 'Awn nor from Brigadier General Edgar Ma'luf. We only receive orders from Minister of Public Works Walid Junblatt.

Alluding to the issue of ports, Maj Gen al-Khatib said: Arbitrary measures have been made, and the blockade has become an unjustified food and military blockade. This is merely a provocative stand which we strongly reject. We have said that free navigation must be guaranteed along the Lebanese coast. We will try to ensure this freedom regardless of the consequences. The Lebanese coast should be used freely by everyone or not at all. This stand of ours emanates from our faith in the unity of Lebanon and the Army. We also believe that the military hegemony to achieve personal covetous designs is completely rejected by us as a military establishment to which we have pledged our allegiance.

On the issue of the airport, Maj Gen al-Khatib said: We and the Arab deterrent forces can ensure safe travel via Beirut International Airport to all passengers, particularly those coming from East Beirut.

Ma'luf Cancels Airport Closure

NC1303122189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Acting Minister of Public Works Major General Edgar Ma'luf has issued the following decision:

Article I: Decision No. 12/1 of 11 March 1989 which provides for a temporary closure of Beirut International Airport is hereby cancelled and work is to be resumed in the airport as usual;

Article II: This decision shall be implemented immediately.

Shells Fall on Port Area

NC1303154589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Six shells fell on the port area at 1625 this afternoon, only a few hours after a decision was made to reopen Beirut Airport. The shelling came from an emplacement in the 'Ayn al-Muraysah area [in West Beirut].

The Minister of Public Works, Staff Major General Edgar Ma'luf, earlier cancelled the decision temporarily closing the airport. The airport resumed activity in the afternoon. A transmediterranean Airline cargo plane took off for Amsterdam. Middle East Airlines informed the international insurance companies of the latest developments. The airlines pointed out that it is a waiting an answer from the aforesaid companies to take the appropriate measures.

Reportage on Fighting Between Army, PSP Forces

'Awn Militia Escalates Situation

NC1003185589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] 'Awn's militia escalated the security situation on the mountain today. From its positions in 'Arayya, the 'Awn militia directed machinegun fire at the (Al-Shuwik) area. Sniper fire also was directed on Ra's Al-Jabal. This afternoon the militia fired machineguns from its posts in Suq al-Gharb at the opposite nationalist positions. There were reports of heavy sniper fire on hill 888 from the 'Awn militia positions in Al-Khazzanat.

Meanwhile, the Naval Operation Room's sea blockade continues. The Operations Room instituted gunboat and helicopter patrols off the Al-Shuf coast and escalated its measures on the crossing points [of Beirut].

RFL on 'Intermittent Clashes'

NC1003201589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1945 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Intermittent clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets are continuing between the positions of the Lebanese Army and gunmen of the Progressive Socialist Party along the Suq al-Gharb and 'Aytat lines in the mountain area.

PSP Attacks Suq al-Gharb Posts

NC1103171989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] At 1730 today gunmen of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] began a concerted shelling of Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, using tanks and flat trajectory weapons. Later they extended the scope of their attacks to include the Al-Jumhur area and the Army officers' houses in Harat al-Sit.

The attacks along the entire Suq al-Gharb front are still going on, with rockets and artillery shells reaching residential areas well away from the confrontation lines, especially in Al-Jumhur and Al-Kahhalah. The Army is returning fire.

PSP Shells by Defense Ministry

NC1103173589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] We have just received a report that the areas of Bayt Miri, 'Arayya, Al-Kahhalah, Bsus, Humal, Bdadun, and Al-Jumhur are now coming under intensive artillery shelling from positions held by gunmen of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] in the mountain area. The Lebanese Army is returning fire.

Here is another report that has just come in: The PSP gunmen are now concentrating their artillery shelling on the Al-Yarzah area and the vicinity of the Ministry of National Defense.

Situation 'Remains Explosive'

NC1103184589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] The military clique under Michel 'Awn's command continues its destructive adventures and is still expanding the scope of its acts of aggression against the nationalist areas on various political, supply, and military fronts.

When Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the Army Command responded to Al-Yarzah's actions and explained the futility and danger of its naval blockade of the ports in the nationalist areas, the Al-Yarzah clique disrupted the security situation along the various combat lines. According to the latest reports from the Suq al-Gharb front, the situation remains explosive. Using 155-mm guns and 120-mm rockets, the Al-Yarzah clique

carried out a bombardment from its positions in Rumyah, Suq al-Gharb, Al-Wadaya, Bsus, Al-Yarzah, Monte Verde, and Bayt Miri, extending the shelling to strike Alayh, Al-'Abbadiyah, Shwit, Ba'ishmayh, Hamdun, and Baysur. Violent clashes are meanwhile taking place on the various combat lines.

[(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon at 1745 GMT ON 11 March adds: "According to the latest report from the mountain front, Baysur and Majdalayya have been the targets of artillery shelling from the 'Awn clique's positions in Rumyah. The report adds that helicopters have been seen over the coastal area and Al-Awza'i."]

Al-Yarzah Shelling Stops

NC1103191589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The shelling of the nationalist mountain areas from the positions of the Al-Yarzah clique stopped a short time ago. However, machinegun fire is still being directed at the Suq al-Gharb combat line from these positions. [passage omitted]

In an escalatory step that exposes the malevolent intentions of 'Awn and his clique, Officer Edgar Ma'luf has announced the closure of the airport and the port. [passage omitted].

'Calm Prevails' on Combat Lines

NC1103200989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Total calm prevails on all combat lines, notably the Suq al-Gharb front, after the violent clashes that took place between the Army and the gunmen manning the socialist [Progressive Socialist Party] artillery emplacements.

The socialist shelling this evening reached the officers' houses in (Harat al-Sitt) in Al-Jumhur. [passage omitted]

At 1900, two shells fell on Beirut port. A little later, three shells fell on Rumyah. The shelling came from the socialist emplacements in the mountain area.

According to security sources, member of officers' families in the (Harat al-Sitt) area were slightly wounded as a result of the concentrated bombardment of the area.

A military source has described the security tension as a clear manifestation of the solidarity among those at home and abroad who have been harmed by the opening of the crossings and the closure of the ports through which narcotics and contraband goods are smuggled.

In response to the statement issued by Al-Khatib's command, the military source noted that the aim of the dominant forces in West Beirut is to bring pressure to bear on some leaders and to cause military tension in order to abort the Arab initiative to rescue Lebanon.

In view of the unexpected security circumstances, Staff Major General Edgar Ma'luf, minister of public works, has announced the temporary closure of Beirut International Airport. This measure has been taken in order to safeguard the airport and the passengers.

Clashes Resume on Mountain Front

NC1203170489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Attacks on the Suq al-Gharb front in the mountain area intensified approximately 1 hour ago. Heavy artillery and rocket fire was directed at the Army's positions in the area. The Army returned the fire in order to silence the attackers.

RFL Reports Attack on Army Positions in Beirut

NC1203172089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] We have just received a report saying that Lebanese Army positions on the commercial markets' combat lines, and at Sodeco and Primo in the capital are now being attacked by machinegun and sniper fire.

Meanwhile, two rockets exploded in the area a short time ago.

Spokesman on U.S. Diplomats Held by PFLP-GC
JN1003192289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1837 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement:

On 3 March 1989, Colonel Clifford Ward, U.S. military attache in Damascus, and his assistant photographed installations belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in an area outside Damascus, where they were not supposed to be, especially since they were equipped with maps and cameras with zoom lenses. They were apprehended by PFLP-GC guards while photographing these installations.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. ambassador to Damascus as soon as it learned of the incident and handed the U.S. military attache and his assistant, both safe and sound, over to him. It also acquainted him with the equipment and maps found in their possession and asked for a U.S. Government clarification of the action by the U.S. military attache and his assistant, which was in contravention of the laws and regulations of the host country and diplomatic charters and norms.

On 9 March, the U.S. ambassador to Damascus, Edward Djerejian, asked to meet with Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al-Shar' to hand him the U.S. Government's reply to this incident. The reply contained the U.S. Government's appreciation of the Syrian Government's efforts and its satisfaction that the two U.S. diplomats were handed over safely and without being harmed. However, the U.S. Government's reply did not contain the required clarifications on the involvement of the U.S. military attache and his assistant in acts not in conformity with the diplomatic mission and that conflict with international charters and norms.

The Foreign Ministry of the Syrian Arab Republic declared its surprise at what the official U.S. spokesman said today about the incident and its implications. He ignored the intense care taken Syria for the security and safety of all diplomats accredited there, including members of the U.S. diplomatic mission. He also ignored what was contained in the U.S. Government's reply regarding its appreciation of, and satisfaction with the Syrian Government's efforts in this matter. The U.S. spokesman also failed to explain what the U.S. military attache and his assistant were doing on 3 March in contravention of the laws and regulations observed in Syria as well as the internationally accepted diplomatic charters and norms.

The Foreign Ministry of the Syrian Arab Republic, recalling Syria's well-known condemnation of all forms of terrorism—while distinguishing between terrorism and the peoples' legitimate struggle—considers the accusations of terrorism that are leveled every now and then against the resistance factions fighting against the Israeli

occupation forces to be false accusations that are not based on internationally approved principles and conflict with the principle of the peoples' right to self-determination as guaranteed by the UN Charter.

Al-Asad Receives Iran's Khalkhali 11 Mar
JN1103130089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1300 today Mohammad Sadeq Khalkhali, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Islamic Consultative Assembly. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iran's Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Akhtari.

USSR Reportedly To Provide 'Modern' Weapons
JN1103152489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBUI
in Arabic 9 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Soviet Union will provide Syria with modern weapons in a deal that will include T-72 modernized tanks, 175- and 225-mm field artillery guns, and a new type of modernized surface-to-air missile.

Informed diplomatic sources in Beirut revealed to AL-ITTIHAD that Moscow's decision to provide Syria with this deal comes after an official Soviet warning to Israel against carrying out any military strike against Syrian forces in the Lebanese Al-Biq'a'.

The sources said that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze conveyed this warning to the enemy foreign minister, Moshe Arens, during their recent meeting in Cairo. This came after Damascus provided Moscow with precise information regarding Israeli troop deployments in the Al-Biq'a' and Israel's plans to launch a large-scale attack north of the security zone in the Al-Biq'a'.

Defense Minister Addresses Fighters in Lebanon
JN1303072589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2115 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] On President Hafiz al-Asad's instructions, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, has inspected one of our combat units in Lebanon. Gen Talas was accompanied by General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces. The fighters welcomed Gen Talas upon his arrival at the unit's position, cheering the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its Secretary General Comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

After a short rest, Gen Talas met with the fighters. To begin his address, he conveyed to them the leader's greetings on the 26th anniversary of the 8 March revolution and his wishes of success in carrying out their pan-Arab mission in the Lebanese arena.

Gen Talas affirmed in his address that Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon is a sacred mission, a lofty objective, and a dear trust that must continue until Lebanon recovers. Talas also affirmed that no side other than Hafiz al-Asad's Syria can make sacrifices in Lebanon. He said that events have shown that its intentions, policies, and objectives are honest, he added. Talas said: events have also demonstrated that Syria has never failed nor hesitated to confront any move or plot to divide and fragment Lebanon. On the contrary, Syria will continue to stand beside the Lebanese nationalist forces and the brave resistance in defense of Lebanon's Arabism.

The defense minister also discussed the current political situation in the region, the events that prove Israel's aggressive and Nazi nature, and the free concessions made by capitulationists, bargainers, and advocates of suspect policies. He affirmed that the Arab nation will gain its rights because he who has rights and strength will triumph in the end regardless of time and sacrifices. He said the heroic intifadah [uprising] is a shining sign, the correct approach, and a step forward on the road of victory and liberation.

Concluding his address, Gen Talas asked the fighters to remain on the alert and in a state of high combat readiness because Syria—as leader Al-Asad affirmed in his historic speech on our Arab nation's anniversary of the March revolution—rejects concessions and capitulation. The only way for Arabs to end Zionist aggression is through confrontation and steadfastness. Talas said: And he who resists the Zionist occupation and aggression anywhere in Arab territory is in fact defending the Arab nation's dignity and lofty objectives.

Ba'th Official Cited on Mideast Settlement
*LD1103091289 Prague CTK in English 0837 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Prague March 11 (CTK)—Ba'th Party Assistant secretary-general 'Abdallah Ahmar has told RUDE PRAVO that Syria, as a direct participant in the Middle East conflict, supports the international effort aimed at a peaceful settlement.

Answering questions of RUDE PRAVO Editor-in-Chief Zdenek Horeni, 'Abdallah Ahmar said that the Arabs have one plan: Its essence is peace and its framework an international conference on the Middle East. Peace can be achieved only by Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands and by the establishment of an independence Palestinian state. Syria feels committed to this joint Arab stand, 'Abdallah Ahmar said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that no favourable turn has taken place in Israel's stand. On the contrary, its position is now even more obstinate. This is evident e.g. from the strengthening of the positions of Israeli right-wing parties.

Syria has always warned against the policy of unilateral concessions, the minister pointed out. It cannot recognize Israel which refuses to recognize a Palestinian state and which regards Arab occupied territories as lands it has liberated, the foreign minister pointed out.

He described Syrian-Czechoslovak relations as firm and constantly developing and called for their further extension for which Syria will do everything. However, he said, there are certain limiting factors in economic cooperation but both sides are trying to reduce their influence to the minimum.

Minister Receives U.S. Publishers Group
*JN1003200489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, received a team of U.S. newspaper publishers this morning. The director of the Foreign Ministry Information Department attended.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the Middle East question and Syria's position on it. He also explained to the publishers the necessary foundations of a just and permanent peace, which Syria is working for.

The minister also touched on the great achievements since the 8 March revolution, particularly those made following the Corrective Movement, which was led by the militant president, Hafiz al-Asad. These achievements included all aspects of life in the country—political, economic, social, cultural, and others.

Afghanistan

Kabul-Mujahidin Battle for Jalalabad Continues

'Reprisal Bombings' Intensify

BK1003154589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1533 GMT
10 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Islamabad, March 10 (AFP)—Afghan resistance fighters captured a key post outside Jalalabad airport early Friday [10 March] and intensified attacks for control of the strategic garrison city, resistance sources said.

The sources said the guerrillas launched a general offensive overnight to capture Jalalabad, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of the Afghan capital Kabul, and fighting was heavy around Jalalabad and its airport. Jalalabad, the third largest Afghan city located mid-way between Kabul and Pakistani border town Tawr Kham, is the rebel's target as a base for its interim government established in Pakistan last month. Major attacks were now under way from Chaparhar in the south, Sorkh Rud in the west and Behsud in the north, the sources said.

The regime's reprisal bombings also intensified early Friday, the sources said, adding that "a lot of people have been killed and wounded." The rebels also suffered heavy casualties and one source said at least 10 mujahidin died and dozens were wounded in Friday's raids.

In a pre-dawn assault the rebels overran the Sarachah [name as received] base, one source said, adding that the "capture of Sarachah cleared the way to the airport" which is already under heavy pressure. Troops abandoned the base after resisting for some time, the sources said, adding that exact losses were not available. The rebels were also engaged in heavy fighting for control of the airport, which is partially under the regime's control, they said.

Some sources said government troops had heavily mined the outer perimeter of the city and airport which hampered any rapid advance. The guerrillas, equipped with medium and heavy artillery including mortars, 107 millimeter rockets and Milan missiles, continued to attack the Afghan Army's Ninth Division guarding Jalalabad. The regime has some 10,000 regular troops commanded by Brigadier General Barakzay Totakhel, who is also a close relative of Soviet-backed Afghan ruler President Najibullah, the sources said. But it has also raised a local militia as well as armed the communist party's workers and cadres. The rebels force comprised roughly 10,000 guerrillas. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Control 'Old Town'

LD1003181589 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Fierce battles between Afghan Muslim revolutionaries and government forces continue in the environs of Jalalabad. In a fierce battle against the forces of the Kabul regime—the regime ruling Afghanistan—in the vicinity of Jalalabad, Afghanistan's second largest city, Afghan Muslim revolutionaries yesterday took control of that city's old town. Fighting is currently continuing between Muslim revolutionaries and government forces over the control of the city's airport. Reporting the fact, UPI added: On Monday, Afghan mujahidin gained control of Jalalabad airport. However, with a counterattack by government forces, they lost that control.

According to TASS, the Soviet news agency, Kabul's international airport came under missile attacks for the second consecutive day. Nine missiles landed close to the airport's control tower.

Armed Forces Retaliate

LD1003182389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] A competent Armed Forces source reports that with high combat morale and spirits the heroic units and subunits of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province are carrying out retaliatory operations against joint attacks by the armed extremist groups and Pakistani soldiers, thus courageously defending their sacred homeland, its national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

BAKHAR's military section reports that the armed extremist groups—with the cooperation and direct participation of Pakistani commandos, soldiers, and militiamen—have attacked and shelled some outlying regions of Jalalabad, including the security posts and civilian inhabitants in these areas, using heavy weapons. They are being [words indistinct] instructed by advisers and military instructors from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and a number of other countries.

According to another report, four Pakistani military helicopters arrived in Ghaziabad region at 1520 this afternoon. After unloading foreign advisers and supplies of weapons and ammunition, they returned to Pakistan.

The (?report) adds that the extremists, who are protected by Pakistan and do not rule out the perpetration of any sort of crime or anti-people action, fired a number of surface-to-surface missiles, Milan guided missiles, and other types of heavy weapons at residential areas of Jalalabad. The resulting losses of life and property have not been reported yet.

According to the most recent report from Nangarhar Province, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan embarked on intensive retaliatory attacks today. As

a result of crushing attacks by the Armed Forces stationed in the province, who also enjoyed aerial support, 415 of the invaders were killed and more than 350 were wounded. Five rocket launchers, 4 mortars, 6 recoilless guns, and 15 strongholds belonging to the criminals and foreign advisers were destroyed. During the fighting, 14 heroic Armed Forces personnel were martyred and another 18 were wounded.

According to another report by an Armed Forces source, the loss of life among the armed extremist groups and Pakistani soldiers over the past 4 days totals 2,000.

Rebels Reach Outskirts

*LD1003195889 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish
1900 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Excerpt] In Afghanistan, the Afghan muslim rebels yesterday managed to reach the first houses in the city of Jalalabad, the third most important city in the country, according to an exclusive report received this afternoon from the EFE correspondent in the region, Jorge Mel Garrejo, who accompanied the mujahidin in the fighting. He himself was injured in the fighting. According to Mel Garrejo, the Afghan rebels reached the first houses in Jalalabad following continuous bombardment. The situation is critical because thousands of people want to leave the city and go to neighboring Pakistan, some 90 km from the city. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Down 2 Planes

*LD1003203389 Tehran in English to Europe
1930 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] In continuation of heavy battle between Afghan Muslim revolutionaries and Kabul regime forces around the city of Jalalabad, the Muslim revolutionaries succeeded in capturing the old part of the city.

Meanwhile, warplanes of the Kabul regime heavily bombed the new positions of the revolutionaries around Jalalabad. Two of the planes were shot down by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries. TASS news agency admitted that Kabul airport had come under heavy missile attack of the Afghan mujahidin. According to TASS, in the past 2 days Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have killed or wounded a number of Soviet-backed forces in the military airport during their missile attack.

Armed Forces 'Contain Onslaught'

*LD1103065789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0418 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Text] Kabul, March 10, BAKHTAR—An authoritative source of the Armed Forces reports that the government military detachments in Nangarhar Province valorously defended the attacks of the united forces of the opposition armed extremist groups and Pakistani soldiers.

The combat operations in Jalalabad city became specially fierce following the direct involvement of irregular troops and the infiltration of military advisers from Pakistan into Sorkh Divar region. Thanks to artillery and air strikes the government troops contained the rebels onslaught. As a result of the operation, hundreds of extremists were killed and a number captured. It has also been reported that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have also suffered losses.

A religious scholar from Jalalabad city in an interview to a BAKHTAR reporter said that the people of Jalalabad will defend their city to their last breath and will not allow the country's fate to be determined in Rawalpindi by a handful of betrayers.

Mujahidin Maintain 'Pressure'

*BK1103154489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin are maintaining their pressure on Jalalabad and are advancing toward the city from all sides. The Kabul regime has admitted that a battle is raging around the city and several of its soldiers, including a general, have been killed, but they say their forces are facing the mujahidin attacks boldly.

Mujahidin Attacks 'Repulsed'

*LD1103180389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Text] A responsible Armed Forces source has informed BAKHTAR's military section of the following: As a result of strong, crushing blows by Air Force, artillery, armored, and infantry forces stationed near Jalalabad, the broad attack by the invading extremists, Pakistani militia forces and commandos have been halted and in a number of cases have been pushed back.

The enemy forces, which are under the direct command of Pakistani, American, and Saudi officers and instructors, have designed a plan to attack and besiege Jalalabad from the direction of Towr Kham, Chaprahar, Khugyianay, and Konarha. To this end, they heavily shelled the city and its surrounding areas with missiles and artillery.

The report adds that units and subunits of the Afghan artillery forces, which had prepared in advance to repulse and defeat these attacks, mounted retaliatory operations and pushed back a number of invading subunits from the battlefield.

During this operation the courageous Air Force personnel played a major and useful role. As a result of crushing blows inflicted by the air and infantry forces, a number of opposition trenches and fortifications were destroyed today, 350 men were killed and over 200 were wounded. The bodies of 200 extremists fell into the hands of the courageous Armed Forces.

The following were destroyed: 6 mortars, 4 rocket launchers, 11 recoilless guns and a large number of caches of enemy weapons and ammunition. The following were seized: 3 rocket launchers; 300 Kalashnikovs; a large quantity of ammunition; and enemy documents, publications, and propaganda leaflets that expose the deceitful objective of the treacherous extremists. In the fighting the courageous Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan suffered 15 martyred and injured. According to another report, a huge military supply convoy arrived this morning in Jalalabad.

A responsible Armed Forces source reports that, on the basis of an order issued by the supreme commander of the Afghan Armed Forces [Najibullah], Major General Muhammad Asef Delawar, Afghan Armed Forces chief of the General Staff, has simultaneously been carrying out the duties of commander at the front in Nangarhar Province since 17 March.

The combat morale of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province is high and the people of the city—including women, girls, and the elderly—are cooperating with their heroic Armed Forces. The report adds that a large number of women and girls, following the tradition of Malalay and Zarghona [war heroes in battle against British] are voluntarily helping with logistics behind the front.

Quoting an Armed Forces commander in Nangarhar, the BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that the Armed Forces have not yet used all of their reserves and new weapons. If the joint invasion by Pakistani soldiers and extremists protected by Pakistani military intelligence continues, the courageous Afghan Armed Forces will use all means and possibilities in their possession. Should this happen the dangerous consequences of this will rest with the Pakistani military authorities and extremist chieftains.

Jalalabad Airport 'On Fire'

BK1203155989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Fierce fighting between Afghan mujahidin and Kabul regime troops continued in Jalalabad today. According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin occupied a major section of the Jalalabad airport, but they have yet to take control of the entire airport. The mujahidin are facing difficulties reaching the military post of the airport due to bombing and mines. The airport is reported to be on fire due to heavy arms firing.

Another report says the mujahidin have arrested a large number of Kabul regime officers and troops on the outskirts of Jalalabad and took control of a large quantity of arms and military vehicles.

General 'Abdul Haq Gaylani of the Kabul regime's armed forces told newsmen that the situation around Jalalabad city continues to be tense following a three-pronged attack on it. The general admitted that the city has suffered a heavy loss due to the fighting. The general added that the Jalalabad fighting is the worst in the 9-year war. According to his estimates 14,000 mujahidin are participating in the attack on the city.

The mujahidin fired between 30 to 40 rockets yesterday which fell on and around the Kabul airport. The reports say three more rockets were fired on the airport today.

A report just received from Afghanistan says the mujahidin today shot down a fighter aircraft of the Kabul regime in (Kano) area. The pilot of the aircraft was killed.

Airport 'Military Center' Seized

LD1103204389 Tehran in English to Europe
1930 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] In an operation, the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries succeeded in taking (Sarachah) military center, near Jalalabad airport, out of the hands of communist forces. Meanwhile, Afghan Muslim revolutionaries continued to subject the cities of Jalalabad and Qandahar, as well as Kabul airport, to their fire. An official of the Afghan regime admitted that intense battle is going between Kabul regime forces and Afghan Muslim guerrillas in the said region. At the same time, the interim government of Afghan mujahidin held its first meeting yesterday in an area in the city of Khowst, located in Paktia Province. At this meeting, presided over by Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, issues related to the war strategy of Afghan mujahidin, as well as request of a seat from the Islamic Conference Organization, were discussed.

On the situation in Afghanistan, former head of the Kabul regime TV news revealed that the Soviet Union had control over television networks in 10 provinces and radio stations in 18 Afghan provinces. He has recently joined the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries. He said that 50 percent of the Kabul regime television programs describe the communist systems and 25 percent are devoted to propaganda against the Afghan mujahidin.

Mujahidin Capture 600

LD1203164189 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Islamabad, March 12, IRNA—Some 600 Kabul regime troops including six colonels were captured by mujahidin around the besieged city of Jalalabad, eastern Afghanistan, over the past two days. The captives were taken by "Mahaz-e Milli" (National Front) group who also seized a considerable amount of weapons and munitions, said mujahidin sources in Peshawar, Pakistan. The captured troops were transferred to Peshawar Saturday night, they added.

Fighting continues to rage around Jalalabad the third largest city in Afghanistan, and according to last reports, over 200 Kabul regime troops have been killed and several hundred others wounded. Casualty figures for the mujahidin are remarkably low, with sources putting the number of martyrs at 30. The hard pressed Soviet installed regime is reportedly bombing mujahidin positions three to four times a day.

Saudi, U.S. 'Advisers' Killed

*LD1203171789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 12 Mar 89*

[Text] According to reports received from Nangarhar Province the enemy forces, consisting of people associated with the armed extremists and Pakistani soldiers, still continue firing on the city of Jalalabad and its military installations.

An authoritative source of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan reports to the BIA military section that over the past 24 hours the enemy has fired about 3,000 shells of (?Oboss) guns, tank, mortars, and missiles on the city of Jalalabad and the surrounding area. The report adds that most of the shells landed in the residential areas, at a number of mosques and holy places, and near the tomb of late Khan 'Abdul Ghaffar Khan [Pashtun leader of North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan]. They have caused a considerable amount of material damage, but fortunately not many military or civilian lives were lost.

Strikes by the heroic Air Force and artillery force of the Republic of Afghanistan continue on the positions, concentrations, and depots of Pakistani soldiers and on people associated with them—the extremist groups. According to reliable intelligence reports received by contingents of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar, over the past 24 hours 386 enemy forces were killed and more than 150 were wounded. During the operation 8 missiles, 12 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, 9 mortars, 2 (?Oboss) guns, 11 recoilless guns, and 23 fortified positions of the enemy have been destroyed. Light and heavy enemy weapons have been taken from those killed in the operation.

According to reliable intelligence reports from behind the enemy front lines, over the past few days, strikes by the Armed Forces in Nangarhar have ousted 3,100 Pakistani forces and extremists associated with them from the battlefield. As many as 4 Saudi advisers, 2 U.S. advisers, and more than 30 Pakistani militia and soldiers were among those killed yesterday.

According to these reports, the combat morale of the enemy has been lowered due to the great loss of life and material among the invading force. A number have either escaped or retreated. The report adds that Pakistani soldiers and militia who are behind the front line,

tried to prevent, by using weapons, the escape of extremists from the front lines. This resulted in a number of people being eliminated by Pakistani soldiers.

According to information obtained from eyewitnesses and prisoners of war, Pakistani and other countries' advisers, who are leading the invading operation, vigorously prevented the return of corpses of the people who were killed to their refugees and Pakistani families. Under the instructions of these advisers the corpses are gathered in big pits and are being buried after being cremated. This is done due to the protests of the Pakistani and refugee families after not being informed about the fate of their relatives after hearing the news of heavy losses among the invading army.

According to another report, two Pakistani helicopters flying a number of foreign advisers and arms and ammunition landed, at 0409 in the morning, in Ghaziabad and took the dead bodies of a number of foreigners to Pakistan. The report adds that Pakistani authorities rejected foreign journalists' requests to visit the area of fighting to prevent the disclosure of the extensive involvement of Pakistan Armed Forces in combat operations and the blatant interference of that country in Jalalabad.

According to a report sent by a BIA reporter from Jalalabad, our vigilant security forces prevented the occurrence of a painful and savage incident. Pakistani spies and intelligence officers wanted to commit another crime against patients by planting a bomb in the civilian hospital in Jalalabad. This treacherous act by the enemies of the people was detected and aborted.

According to recent news, the Armed Forces and people in Jalalabad have high combat and defensive morale despite the intensity of the fighting, and the extensive invasion and interference of Pakistan has caused extreme hatred against them. They have consolidated to continue the resolute struggle more than before and they are fighting to the last breath against the invaders from Pakistan for the defense of the country.

'Major Rocket Attack' 12 Mar

*BK1303024289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 13 Mar 89*

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, mujahidin carried out a major rocket attack on Jalalabad airport yesterday, setting fire to the main terminal and other installations. The flames could be seen from several kilometers away. Fierce fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces continues in the region. According to an estimate, more than 3,000 rockets and artillery shells were fired on Jalalabad during the last 36 hours. An American journalist who arrived in Pakistan from Jalalabad said that he saw thousands of people leaving the city due to heavy bombing by Kabul regime planes, and that many people are being killed. A Spanish journalist said in Kabul yesterday that he spent several hours

with mujahidin on Thursday [9 March], adding that he counted 77 air raids on the city during a 27-hour period. The journalist said that the Kabul regime Air Force bombed the refugees from a high altitude.

Diplomatic sources speak of heavy casualties in the Jalalabad fighting. They said that a general of the Kabul regime forces was killed in the fighting and was buried yesterday. Another general, who was killed on the first day of fighting, was buried last Thursday [9 March].

Nearly 400 Kabul regime soldiers who defected to the mujahidin near Jalalabad last week were presented to journalists at an Afghan refugee camp yesterday. A mujahidin spokesman said that 300 more soldiers who defected to mujahidin are being brought from Nangarhar Province. He said that these soldiers are not captives and that they will be released. If they like, they can join us in the jihad [holy war].

BAKHTAR Says 350 Killed

LD1303070189 *Kabul BAKHTAR in English*
0430 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 12, BAKHTAR—An authoritative source of the Armed Forces reports that the extensive offensive of the extremist forces and the Pakistani comandos and militias has been stopped around Jalalabad city due to the crushing blows dealt to the enemies by the Air Force, infantry and artillery positioned in Jalalabad city and some enemy's forces have retreated. The enemy is directly guided by Pakistani, American and Saudi's advisers. The plot of besieging and attacking on Jalalabad city from the direction of Towr Kham, Chaprahar, Khugianay and Konarha was hatched and thus severe rocket and artillery offensives were launched against Jalalabad city and its surroundings.

The report says that the artillery units of the Armed Forces resorted to retaliatory operations and was able to get a considerable number of the insurgent units out of the fighting scene. The Afghan Air Force has also played a significant role in repulsing the aggressions of foreign insurgents and the extremists. As a result of the air and land operations a number of the enemies positions and entrenchments were destroyed on Saturday. 350 extremists were killed and another 200 were injured. Of the killed ones, the bodies of 200 extremists have fallen at the hand of the Armed Forces.

During these operations, fifteen servicemen of the Armed Forces were also killed and twelve injured. The report says that the morale of the units of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province is high and Jalalabad citizens are cooperating with them. The Armed Forces, says the report, have not yet used all its reserves and new weapons. In case the joint offensive of Pakistani [word indistinct] and extremists are continuing, all the available means will be used and in that case its grave consequences will be borne by Pakistani military authorities and the leaders of the extremist groups.

Another report from Qandahar says that in a successful operation carried out by the government units, the extremists have sustained heavy casualties and their hideouts of arms and ammunitions fell to the hand of the government armed units stationed in Qandahar.

Kabul Reports Military Situation in Provinces

13 Killed in Qandahar 10 Mar

LD1003183989 *Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
1600 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Our heroic Armed Forces, who courageously defend and safeguard the national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the country, are ready at any time and everywhere in the country to repulse the attacks and savage aggressions by the warmongering extremists with firmness and courage and to discover and foil their conspiracies and subversive action aimed at disrupting the peaceful life of the people.

In the past 24 hours, with high morale, the units and subunits of the Armed Forces responded decisively and inflicted crushing blows on the attacks and aggressions of extremists supported by the Pakistani militarists. They also carried out mopping up operations to defend the cities and villages of the country.

A reliable Armed Forces source reported the following to the BIA military section about the military situation in the country in the past 24 hours:

Qandahar: As a result of mopping up operations carried out in Tarin Kowt by the units and subunits of the Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar Province, 13 warmongering armed extremists were killed and 7 were wounded in the course of repulsing the Satanic extremist forces. Thousands of rounds of ammunition for light weapons, 4 surface to-surface missiles, 55 hand grenades and 11 anti-vehicle mines were seized from these criminals. During these operations three members of the Armed Forces were wounded.

Parvan: As a result of shelling by heavy weapons on the security posts and residential areas located in the surroundings of this province, three members of the Armed Forces were wounded.

According to another report, Kabul-Hayraton highway is open to traffic and the supply convoys carrying food-stuffs and petroleum products continue their journey every day along this highway.

As a result of clashes that flared up between the extremist groups of Rabbani and Gulbuddin in the surroundings of Eshkashem, 15 men from Rabbani's groups and 8 men from the Gulbuddin's group were killed. These clashes are continuing with intensity.

Herat: Clashes between the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Rabbani have further intensified in this province. For example as a result of clashes that flared up among the members of the above groups in the surroundings of Pashtun Zarghun district and Koshk subdistrict, 40 men attached to Rabbani's group were killed and 15 were injured. During these clashes 150 men attached to Gulbuddin's group were captured by Rabbani's group. The report adds that the inhabitants of these regions have had enough of the warmongering and subversive groups in these places and they resolutely want that the extremists to leave their regions.

Helmand: Fierce clashes took place in the surroundings of this province between the men of 'Abdullah Jan's group attached to Gulbuddin. As a result, four men were killed and three were wounded.

41 Killed in Qandahar 11 Mar

*LD1103163589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Text] The Afghan Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar Province carried out successful operations against the warmongering extremists, capturing the trenches used by the extremists as a base for carrying out subversive activities and storing a large amount of weapons and ammunition. The Afghan Armed Forces inflicted crushing blows on the criminals protected by Pakistani militarists.

During this combat operation, 41 warmongering extremists were killed and 3 extremists missiles, 3 recoilless guns, and 5 mortars were destroyed, the BIA military section added. Security forces also seized 400 mortar shells, 25 recoilless gun shells, and 22 boxes of DShK ammunition during these operations. One armored personnel carrier was set on fire, one Armed Forces soldier was martyred, and two were injured when a mine exploded.

According to another report, the criminal extremists committed another crime by firing nine surface-to-surface missiles at Kabul, which struck its residential areas. One innocent compatriot was martyred and another wounded, when these missiles hit the northern section of (Babi Mahro) and other regions in the 10th ward.

The situation was normal in other provinces and regions.

According to another report, the Kabul-Hayraton and Kabul-Jalalabad highways are open to traffic. Supply convoys are continuing to travel along these highways.

According to another report, 567 youths who are eligible for military service have reported to the military commissariats in the capital and provinces. After their names were registered, they were sent to the relevant units and subunits.

'Hundreds' Killed in Herat

*LD1203222289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Mar 89*

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports that Armed Forces units and companies, in courageously defending the homeland and the higher interests of the people, are inflicting shattering blows on armed extremist groups wherever they disrupt the normal life of the people. As a result of retaliatory and mopping up operations carried out to the west and south of Meydan Kalay, Qandahar Province, 15 extremists were killed. Two mortars, 1 recoilless gun, 1 missile, 15 strongholds, and 2 trenches were destroyed. Sixteen rounds of ammunition and 3 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition were seized.

According to another report, in order to serve the interests of foreigners and their Pakistani protectors, the extremist groups do not pay any respect or attention to the religious beliefs and sacred places of our faithful people. They planted 60 kg of explosives in the park of the communal mosque in Herat in an attempt to commit another crime. However, the vigilant security forces took timely measures and discovered the explosives, thus preventing a tragic incident in one of the most sacred places of Muslim worship in Herat. As a result of heavy weapons fire by highway robbers in Gozareh District, Herat Province, two people, including a child, were injured.

Intensified hostility over the distribution of property stolen from our compatriots has resulted in bloody clashes between members of the Gulbuddin and Rabbani extremist groups in parts of Owbeh District, Herat Province. Hundreds of people from both sides have been killed.

As a result of internecine disputes between extremist groups, 20 extremists, including 2 ringleaders, were killed in (Nopula) region, Qarah Bagh District, Parvan Province.

A security source reports from Baghlan Province that, as a result of a mopping-up operation by security units and companies in Ma'dan-e Karkar mine, two BM1 units, one recoilless gun, nine rounds of ammunition, and eight surface-to-surface missiles were seized. One weapons cache belonging to groups dependent on the Pakistani militarists was destroyed.

According to another report, 634 youths have reported to military commissions in the capital and provinces during the last 24 hours. After registering their names, they left to join Armed Forces units and companies.

Mujahidin Capture Provincial Headquarters

*BK1303113989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 13 Mar 89*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have captured Tarin Kowt, the headquarters of Cholistan province [as heard]. They took prisoner a number of

Kabul regime troops and seized a big quantity of arms and ammunition. The AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS says the governor and provincial officials have fled away.

Foreign Ministry on Saudi Recognition of Rebels

*LD1103200189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Statement by the Afghan Foreign Ministry; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] A number of foreign countries and reactionary circles which have imposed the long and destructive war on the Afghan people have intensified their provocative actions to expand the war and increase the bloodshed. Feverish attempts have recently been made in Pakistan to form a government acceptable to these circles and to export this government to Afghan territory and obtain international recognition.

The Saudi Arabian Government, which during the war prepared the grounds for the murder of tens of thousands of our people by arming and financing the armed extremists—in particular the Wahabi sect—by recognizing the so-called provisional government of the extremists some 2 days ago is now responsible for encouraging the continuation of the war. The objective of Saudi Arabia's hasty action is clear. This country's authorities do not want to be left behind their Pakistani, American, and Iranian colleagues in the race to benefit from Afghanistan's war. They want to exert influence in order to determine the character of a puppet government in Afghanistan. If Pakistan, in return for its military assistance to the extremists, has in mind the annexation of Afghanistan and the formation of a confederation, then Saudi Arabia would regard the imposition of a Wahabi government on the Afghan people as a payoff for the generosity it extended to the extremist chieftains during the years of war and fratricide.

According to international news agencies, it is possible that the election of 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, the main leader of the Wahabites, as prime minister of this so-called government, was the main reason why the Saudi authorities rushed to recognize this government. However, Saudi Arabia should keep in mind that, when a country is independent, sovereign, and nonaligned; when a country is a United Nations member with diplomatic relations with 85 countries in the world; when a country has a constitution, parliament, and legal government, a recognized government, the extremists' illegitimate government, which was formed in a foreign land amid scandals and under pressure from foreign intelligence services, is shameful interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Saudi Arabia will bear the responsibility for the extremely dangerous consequences of all the crimes and bloodshed in Afghanistan for which the extremists are responsible.

No one should ignore this clear fact: The so-called provisional government of the extremists goes against the principles of international law. It was created contrary to all historical and modern political and national traditions of the Afghan people. It is clearly and blatantly against Articles 1 and 2 Document No.1 of the Geneva accords, the resolution issued by the 43d session of the UN General Assembly, and the resolution issued by the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers on the situation in Afghanistan.

The Saudi authorities should not ignore the fact that this illegal and unwise action will not produce anything except the intensification and further complication of the war and fratricide in the Muslim country of Afghanistan. The Afghan people will reject any government which comes out from under the impure skirt of foreign states. The Afghan people want to safeguard their independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. They want to defend national honor on the basis of their natural right to defend their property and pride and on the basis of the Constitution and the country's higher interests.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry, while expressing its strong protest to the Saudi Arabian Government because of this interventionist and irresponsible action, seriously demands that the Saudi authorities keep their hands off the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the Afghans.

Najibullah Calls on Gorbachev, Bush for Assistance

*LD1003182789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] The following message has been sent from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to His Excellency M.S. Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and His Excellency George Bush, President of the United States:

Your Excellencies: I would like to bring to the attention of your government, which is one of the guarantors of the Geneva accords, that for some days now the level of aggression and extensive armed attack against a number of border cities in eastern Afghanistan, with the direct participation of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, is being launched. A large number of armed Afghan opposition groups, armed with heavy and modern weapons by Pakistan, have penetrated Nangarhar Province. And now the commandos and militia of Pakistan, in direct support and participation, have embarked on extensive offensive attacks around Jalalabad city. In addition to previous heavy and advanced weapons, guided missiles of the MILAN-type and antitank guided missiles as well as other heavy and advanced arms are being used in this armed aggression. Meanwhile, a considerable number of Pakistani forces have mobilized at the border fringes and have been stationed in a number of important border points to prepare for attack.

These developments have presented serious and real danger to peace and stability in the region and foretell the probability of a broader conflict. As guarantors of the Geneva accords, I ask you, in light of your responsibility, to take immediate necessary measures and prevent, by every possible means, the further intensification and aggravation of the situation.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I am renewing my best regards,

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Appeals to Perez de Cuellar

LD1003205589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] The following message from esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, addressed to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, was sent:

Your excellency: I would like to inform you that a dangerous situation is building up around Afghanistan. The destiny of peace and stability in the region is faced with serious and unpredictable danger as a result of the irresponsible policy of the Government of Pakistan emanating from the continuation, extension, and intensification of military aggression and interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. I consider it completely timely and necessary to inform Your Excellency of the process of the developments, which could at any moment seriously endanger the great gain that has been achieved as a result of the diplomatic process by you, as the UN secretary general, and the parties concerned, namely the signing of the Geneva accords.

The Geneva accords as a whole and the document concerning the regulation of mutual relations, particularly on noninterference and nonintervention, have been completely trampled as a result of the anti-peace, aggressive, and interventionist policy of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Everything contained in the 24 October 1980 declaration on interstate relations and the declaration of 9 November 1981, regarding the impermissibility of interference in the internal affairs of states, which have been specifically and precisely reflected in the documents of the Geneva accords, which the Government of Pakistan accepted, are being blatantly violated.

The official policy and practical measures of Pakistan and the United States are in complete contradiction with the process of maintaining peace and stability inside and around Afghanistan. This situation not only could have grave consequences for the Geneva accords and the resolutions of the conference of foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement and the 43d session of the UN

General Assembly, which have been approved by unanimous understanding, but could result in the further broadening and deepening of instability and tension throughout the region.

Now the direct interference and aggression of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan has been completely revealed to the international community. Exactly 2,708 cases of the aforementioned interventions have been handed to UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] in Kabul within 291 notes, which have been brought to the attention of your personal envoy. The people of the world know that under the pressure of the Pakistani authorities, particularly their military intelligence department, the consultative council of the armed opponents of Afghanistan residing in Pakistan, was formed in Rawalpindi. Now Pakistan is trying to organize international recognition for the illegitimate government which has been created by this illegitimate council. The people of Afghanistan, including some parts of the opposition, have resolutely rejected it from the very beginning. Meanwhile, Pakistan is trying to export the government of its liking with the help of its military and militia forces inside Afghan territory.

It is thus that Pakistan's military mobilization at the border of Afghanistan is continuing. Pakistan mobilization has begun with extensive dimensions and the plan of the occupation of the border cities including Jalalabad, Khowst, and Qandahar is under way. For some days now a large number of the armed opposition groups who have penetrated Nangarhar Province equipped with a large quantity of advanced weapons including guided missiles of the MILAN type and guided antitank missiles, and other heavy weapons, with the direct support and extensive participation of Pakistani commandos and militia, have embarked on armed attacks against Jalalabad city.

At present, 20 Pakistani military units have been stationed at regions in Bajaur Agency, Nawagai, Muhammad Kowt, and Chitral. During the past 3 months, Pakistani military helicopters have engaged 20 times in transporting Pakistani advisors and the leaders of extremists from Pakistan to the territory of Afghanistan. At this very moment 30 aircrafts, whose pilots are of the Afghan opposition and have been trained in the United States are ready at Bahawalpur airport, and immediately after the capture of one border city they take part in military operations inside Afghanistan. Developments in the situation clearly show that an extensive plan for destabilizing the situation is on the agenda of the Pakistani militarist and adventurous authorities. A situation enshrining a greater regional clash is shaping. These developments have darkened the hopes of the people of Afghanistan for the speedy maintenance of peace and security in our war-torn land. We hope to draw the attention of your excellency to Article 34, Paragraph 1 of Article 30, and Article 32 of the UN Charter, all of which guarantee seeking ways and means to maintain peace and security.

We request the United Nations and Your Excellency, in line with the responsibilities the resolution of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly has put on your shoulders, by utilizing the possibilities and prestige of the United Nations to prevent the aggravation of the situation and encourage and invite the parties concerned to observe their agreements in the Geneva accords and to protect the prestige of the United Nations which is also hidden in them. We request you to urgently instruct the UNGOMAP mobile groups to seriously, in a consistent and regular manner, assess the border fringes in particular at the Nawagei, Towr Kham, Teri Mangal, and Chaman points and present urgent reports on the situation to the parties of the Geneva accords and your excellency.

The present grave situation demands urgent measures and we are confident that your excellency could play an important and great role in its elimination.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I renew by best regards.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Sends Message to Gandhi

*LD1203205289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 12 Mar 89*

[Text] Esteemed President Najibullah has sent a message to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Drawing the attention of His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi to the dangerous situation caused by Pakistan's military and political interference, the message notes that the mobilization of Pakistani military forces along the border area and the increasing participation of Pakistani soldiers, militia members, and commandos in the subversive activities of the armed extremists against the Republic of Afghanistan have created an absolutely dangerous situation. The extensive military Pakistan supplies and the intensification of its attacks together with extremist groups reveal the extensive unseemly plans against the Republic of Afghanistan. It is seriously threatening our country's political independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Pakistan's actions are also totally against the Geneva agreements, the political declaration adopted by the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers and the resolution adopted by the 43d session of the UN General Assembly.

The message asks his excellency to use his high political prestige and facilities to prevent a further declaration in the situation.

Najibullah Requests Reinstatement in ICO

*LD1003225289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, sent separate messages to His Excellency Jordan's King Husayn, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Haydar Abu

Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, His Excellency Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, UAE President Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, and Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] His Excellency Hamid al-Gabid.

In the messages it states that the factors leading to Afghanistan's suspension in the ICO in 1979, have now completely been eliminated. In the meantime, at the blessing of the values of national reconciliation, the Geneva accords, and the efforts of the international community, suitable conditions for the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland have been prepared. It will be timely for the question of restoring full membership of the Republic of Afghanistan to the ICO be discussed in the forthcoming Riyadh meeting and our country, as an Islamic, nonaligned, and neutral country retakes its worthy place in the ranks of that organization.

The messages also state that the ICO could help the people of Afghanistan in their efforts toward overcoming the tragedy of the fratricidal war. Realizing the importance of this fact, it is proposed that the ICO mediate between Afghans to form a broad-based government, which is in accord with the wishes and high interests of the people of Afghanistan, the resolution of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly, and the resolution of the meeting of foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement. On this basis the Republic of Afghanistan will welcome the formation of a special commission of the ICO in order to mediate in solving the questions of Afghanistan.

Confidence is expressed in the messages that the participation of the Republic of Afghanistan in the activities of the ICO will help consolidate Islamic solidarity and fraternity. This cause in its turn will speed up the process of maintaining peace and ending war in Afghanistan.

Nonaggression Pact Signed for Kabul-Parvan Road

*LD1103153489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Excerpt] In light of statements made by esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, when he met with elders and chiefs of Kabul Province, a nonaggression protocol on supply convoys passing along the Kabul-Parvan highway was concluded today between elders of a number of villages attached to Mir Bacheh Kowt District and the command brigade in charge of maintaining security along the Kabul-Parvan highway. [passage omitted]

In line with this protocol, which was concluded with the armed opposition groups as a result of the good efforts by the elders, the opposition's armed operations along the Kabul-Parvan highway will cease from tomorrow, 12

March, in the Mir Bacheh Kowt District from Sarkari Sarak up to Qalah-ye Nasrat; and the Armed Forces will also refrain from combat operations in those regions.

The protocol states that the elders of these villages are responsible for the complete security along the highway from Sarkari Sarak up to Qalah-ye Nasrat. In the event that government or private vehicles are damaged the Armed Forces will be allowed to carry out land and air operations.

Moreover, in view of this protocol, the supplies needed by the people such as wheat, cooking oil, sugar, and oil products will be sold to them for cash by the government when needed.

'Very Strong Protest' Delivered to Pakistan
LD1103213389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Pakistan's charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to receive a vigorous protest by the Afghan Government. The protest was conveyed by the head of the ministry's first political directorate.

According to the protest, despite the Republic of Afghanistan's repeated protests against Pakistani Armed Forces' violations—especially by its Air Force—they are increasing every day. Today at 0904 four helicopters violated the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan. Two helicopters landed in (Shinwar) major district and two others landed in Ghaziabad bringing in Pakistani, Arab, and American advisers and a so-called leader of the armed opposition.

Similarly, a Pakistani jet violated Afghan airspace at 1120 on 10 March in the areas of Lowyah Dakkah and La'lpur subdistricts in Nangarhar. The jet, which was travelling at 720 km per hour, made a reconnaissance flight and then returned to Pakistani airspace. The Foreign Ministry expressed the Republic of Afghanistan's very strong protest over these violations and intrusions, which are against all internationally accepted norms and contravene the Geneva agreements. It asks Pakistan to refrain from these irresponsible acts. Otherwise, the Pakistani authorities will bear the responsibility for the grave consequences of such unseemly acts.

'Military Intervention' Cited
LD1203183289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this afternoon to receive a strong protest from the Afghan Government. The protest was conveyed to him by the acting chief of the First Political Directorate of the Foreign Ministry. It was pointed out to him that despite the Republic of Afghanistan's repeated protests Pakistani military intervention in Afghanistan's internal

affairs is intensifying with each passing day. As an example, on 11 March, 400 Pakistani militia members entered Nangarhar Province to reinforce other Pakistanis who were helping the Afghan extremists carry out subversive activities in the province.

In continuing violations of Afghan airspace, two Pakistani helicopters at 0610 today transferred a number of foreign advisers and a quantity of weapons and ammunition, including poison, to the Ghaziabad area and then returned to Pakistan.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry expresses the strong protest of the Republic of Afghanistan at these acts of aggressions by the Pakistani Armed Forces, which completely contravene all accepted international norms, in particular the Geneva accords, and once again demands that the Pakistani Government refrains from such actions which result in nothing but the deterioration of the situation. On the contrary, the grave consequences of such irresponsible actions will rest with the Pakistani Government.

Rebels Mount 'Media Event' for Cabinet Meeting
BK1103084889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT
11 Mar 89

[By Mike Gonzalez]

[Text] Shewai, [name as published] Afghanistan, March 11 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance mounted a media event for the first session of their newly created government, transporting some 80 foreign journalists over mountains and dirt roads to camps inside Afghanistan where the cabinet was meeting. The largest group of journalists ever assembled for a rebel-organized trip inside Afghanistan began the voyage from the Pakistani border city of Peshawar at 3:45 a.m. Friday [10 March].

The resistance served breakfast aboard the buses and pickup trucks that went across Pakistan's tribal areas and then entered Afghanistan. Upon arriving at this camp in eastern Afghanistan at noon, journalists were taken inside a well-guarded bunker-style room to witness the cabinet session, which was already under way.

With cameras clicking all around him, president Sibghatullah Mojaddedi made a short statement before asking the journalists to leave. Mr. Mojaddedi claimed the resistance was in control of 90 per cent of the country and that the next meeting of the government would soon be held in Kabul. He said the interim government, elected at a traditional Afghan assembly or shura in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi on February 23, had "fulfilled all the conditions" for diplomatic recognition.

Saudi Arabia last week became the first and so far the only Moslem country to recognize the resistance government.

Prime Minister 'Abdul Reb Rasul Sayyaf declared "illegal" all agreements signed between President Najibullah's government and Moscow during the nine-year Soviet military intervention.

Rebels in a new uniform consisting of a long shirt and camouflage pants formed an honor guard outside the camp, while others armed with multi-barreled rocket launchers and shoulder-fired missiles defended the mountains encircling it in Afghanistan's eastern province of Paktia. At one point, interviews with commanders and rebels stopped when blasts were heard from above the mountains, but the rebels dismissed the noise, saying it was a government jet that had come too near and been shooed away. Rebel field commander Muhammad Akram said government forces would not sabotage the meeting because "they're totally demoralized."

The resistance had advertised the cabinet meeting for the past five days, inviting journalists to see the government in action in "free Afghanistan." Hardly hiding their optimism in the wake of recent events, commanders, fighters and resistance officials have been predicting the fall of the Kabul government in a few weeks' time. The Soviet withdrawal and the formation of the interim government last month, combined with swift advances on the eastern city of Jalalabad and the Saudi recognition, have put the rebels in an upbeat mood.

Mujahidin and villagers lining the route from the border to the camps here looked on bewildered as the unusually large civilian convoy wound its way among camel caravans and donkey trains. Journalists hung out of the side of the trucks, waving to children in mustard fields and taking pictures of the heavily armed rebels. "The Afghans must be saying to themselves, 'Look at this, only three weeks after the Russians left and tourists have already started coming in,'" commented a journalist.

There was a tense moment when a government jet overflowed the journalists on the way, but the mujahidin stopped the convoy only a few seconds and then decided to continue. "They won't dare do anything," said one of the rebels aboard a truck, flashing his Kalashnikov.

3 Ministers Appointed

BK1103084089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] The first cabinet meeting of the interim government of the Afghan mujahidin was held in an eastern Afghan town of (?Shiveh) yesterday. The meeting was presided over by the president of the interim government, Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, who said that their first task would be to wage war to remove the Kabul regime from power. He said the second meeting of the cabinet will be held at another place inside Afghanistan.

Prime Minister 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf described as illegal all agreements signed between the Najibullah regime and the Soviet Government during past 9 years of

Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. He announced the portfolios of the ministers and appointed three new ministers, thereby raising the number of cabinet members to 13.

Libya, Iraq To Recognize Interim Government

BK1203083489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0822 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Islamabad, March 12 (AFP)—Libya and Iraq have said they will recognize an interim government set up by the Afghan resistance, the pro-mujahidin AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said Sunday. Foreign Minister of the interim government Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, who recently visited Tripoli and Bagdad, said Libya and Iraq had promised to recognize the government, ANA quoted Ghayrat Bahir, an adviser to Mr. Hikmatyar, as saying. "The Hikmatyar trip to Libya and Iraq was very successful," Mr. Bahir told ANA. He said Mr. Hikmatyar had met with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi as well as the Libyan foreign minister who "promised to recognize the Afghan Islamic interim government (AIIG)." Mr. Hikmatyar also met with Iraqi Vice President Ma'ruf and Foreign Minister 'Aziz, both of whom assured Mr. Hikmatyar that Bagdad would recognize the AIIG in the "very near future."

The interim government was formed on February 23 in nearby Rawalpindi by the Pakistan-based Sunni Moslem resistance factions and has already been recognized by Saudi Arabia and Sudan. It held its first cabinet meeting Friday in a small mujahidin camp in Shewai [name as received] in the east of Afghanistan.

A diplomatic battle for international recognition is raging between the mujahidin and the Soviet-backed Kabul government of General Najibullah. The mujahidin, largely backed by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, is seeking recognition of its government especially from other Moslem countries, while the Kabul regime is trying to block the resistance government's moves to achieve international support.

Despite Soviet support for Libya, the radical fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami headed by Mr. Hikmatyar has kept up its contacts with leaders in Tripoli, informed sources said here. But Libyan recognition of the mujahidin government—which receives strong support from the United States—would be surprising, observers said. The interim mujahidin government is seeking to obtain Afghanistan's vacant seat in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), which expelled Kabul from its ranks following the intervention of Soviet troops in Afghanistan in 1979. A meeting of the ministers of the 45 OIC member-nations is scheduled to open Monday in Riyadh.

The mujahidin launched a massive offensive Tuesday on Kabul forces holding the eastern garrison city of Jalalabad, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) from the Afghan capital. The battle, which Kabul has called the worst in the decade-long war, is still going on.

Soviet Planes Begin Airlifting Flour to Kabul
*BK1203090089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT
12 Mar 89*

[Text] Kabul, March 12 (AFP)—Soviet transport planes began airlifting flour to the Afghan capital Sunday, as Soviet sources said all Afghan fighter planes had been shifted from Kabul's rocket-plagued airport. From 30-40 rockets fired by mujahidin gunners landed in and around the airport Saturday, damaging an Aeroflot Ilyushin-60 aircraft, and three more landed in the airport early Sunday without causing damage, aviation sources said.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reporter saw two AN-12 Soviet transporters, each carrying 10 tonnes of flour, being unloaded at the airport Sunday. The arrival of the planes marked the first Soviet airlift of food to Kabul since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan on February 15.

Aviation sources had earlier speculated that the planes might be transporting supplies meant to refurbish government troops engaged in bitter fighting with the mujahidin in the eastern city of Jalalabad, 150 kilometres (90 miles) from here.

Muhammed Naim Yusufzai, director of the Joint Afghan-Soviet Transport Company, told AFP that after Sunday some 20 supply planes should arrive daily, adding that no date had been set for ending the airlift programme. Mr. Yusufzai said some 350 tonnes of flour had been flown into Kabul before February 15. Sunday's airlift was the first since that date, although a large convoy of trucks had brought in supplies along the Salang highway linking the capital with the Soviet Union.

Soviet sources said all Afghan fighter planes had been shifted to other air bases in the country since the heavy rocketing of Kabul airport and its surroundings began Wednesday. The sources declined to say whether movement of the planes and the rocketing were connected, but said they both happened Wednesday.

Journalists Sunday saw a civilian Ariana Air flight coming in from New Delhi and about 15 Afghan transport planes as well as helicopters parked at the airport, which remained operational. Saturday's rocket barrage left one civilian dead and another injured according to state television, which said only nine missiles had been fired.

An AFP reporter saw three rockets impact, one near the apron of the civilian airport. Rockets fired by the rebels cleared the airport briefly on Wednesday and again on Thursday. One person was killed and another injured in Wednesday's attack.

10,000 Reportedly Defect to Mujahidin in North
*LD1003174789 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT
10 Mar 89*

[Text] Mashhad, March 10, IRNA—Some 10,000 soldiers, forces of the Kabul regime, have joined Afghan mujahidin in the northern parts of the country over the past three weeks, a guerrilla official has claimed.

Colonel Rafi'zadeh, an official of the Afghanistan Islamic Movement, told IRNA that the forces also surrendered weapons and munitions including 41 armoured tanks and 10,000 Kalashnikov rifles. He refuted a claim made by the Kabul regime that some of the mujahidin had joined the regime's forces, terming the claim "pure fabrication". The official said as soon as the strategic region of Laghman—15 kms east of Kabul—was liberated by the mujahidin, the capital's position would be seriously undermined. Kabul should know that it cannot escape from the hands of the Muslim revolutionaries by threatening that it may seek help from the Soviet Air Force.

Kabul Interviews Allegedly Captured General
*LD1203221789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 12 Mar 89*

[Text] A leader associated with the extremists a few days ago said that General Najib was wounded in operations in Nangarhar and was being held prisoner. Our reporter has interviewed General Najib, and we draw your attention to it:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed Brigadier General Najib Ahmad Ayubi, a few days ago a so-called leader of the extremists in a press conference remarked that General Najib had been injured and was their prisoner. But as we see, you are healthy and talking to us. Please comment on this propaganda.

[General Najib] Since the success of the revolution, Western radios have broadcast incorrect propaganda. And 99 percent of the propaganda transmitted by those radios is wrong, and many of our countrymen hear it. I am fine. I have not been injured.

Some time ago, I was transferred from Division No 11. Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Ehsan was appointed commander of the division. He is fine. I talked to him yesterday. He is successful in his duties and continues to discharge them. Officers, first of all, do not surrender—especially generals. Generals do not surrender. If they fire 100 bullets at an enemy, they always keep one for themselves.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Bangladesh

PLO Leader 'Arafat Arrives on Official Visit
BK1003125289 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was given a hearty welcome when he arrived in Dhaka on Friday afternoon on a 2-day official visit to Bangladesh. As the special flight carrying the PLO chief touched down at the Zia International Airport, a 21-gun salute boomed out his arrival. President Ershad was the first to receive him as Mr 'Arafat came out from the aircraft. They warmly embraced each other in a traditional Muslim style. [passage omitted]

Ershad, 'Arafat Speeches
BK1103044389 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] President Ershad has reiterated Bangladesh's solidarity with the people of Palestine in keeping their rightful destiny in their own independent homeland. Speaking at a banquet given by him in honor of Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at Banga Bhavan [President's House] yesterday evening, the president asserted that a nation which has suffered so much cannot but to gain freedom. He said we in Bangladesh hold the cause of Palestine very close to our hearts. We are outraged when our Palestinian brethren are subjected to Zionist atrocities and deeply pained to see the plight of Palestinian children.

Felicitating 'Arafat in the recent historic declaration at Algiers to proclaim independent state of Palestine, President Ershad said Bangladesh has welcomed this decision with great rejoicing.

The president said the Palestinian struggle being waged for more than 4 decades [words indistinct] in the history of mankind. Referring to the powerful resistance and the proclaimed popular uprising of the Palestine people, President Ershad said we convey our total solidarity with the spirit of [words indistinct] Palestine.

The president said Bangladesh has time and again asserted that the question of Palestine lay at the core of intractable problems of the Middle East. He said Bangladesh believes that the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East remained the only opportunity before the world for achieving a lasting and durable solution to the problem. He said this conference should be convened immediately under the auspices of the United Nations with full participation of all concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization representing the state of Palestine.

In his address, Mr Yasir 'Arafat called upon the world community to put more pressure on Israel to attend the proposed international conference for peace in the Middle East. Mr 'Arafat said [words indistinct] peace in the

Middle East. The conference, which is to be held under the auspices of the United Nations, is to be participated in by the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned [words indistinct], including the PLO, on an equal footing.

The PLO chairman warned that continuous rejection by Israel of the international Middle East conference [words indistinct]. He said Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO has been waging for the last 16 months a national uprising against Israeli occupation. It aims at establishing an independent Palestine state including Jerusalem, Al-Quds al-Sharif, as its capital.

Mr 'Arafat described Israeli atrocities and said during the last 16 months 650 Palestinians embraced martyrdom with 32,000 injured and 29,000 detained in concentration camps in the deserts of southern Palestine. But all these depressions will never be able to play on the spirit of struggle in our people. The PLO chairman recalled with gratitude the stand taken by President Ershad to support the struggle of the Palestinians and conveyed thanks and gratitude to the Government and people of Bangladesh.

The banquet was attended by Vice President Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, ministers, chiefs of the three services, diplomats, high civilian and military officials, and members of the entourage of the PLO chairman.

Embassy Site Chosen
BK1103134689 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The foundation of the embassy of the state of Palestine has been laid in Dhaka. President Ershad and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat jointly laid the foundation on a piece of land given by Bangladesh as a gesture of goodwill and friendship to the Palestinian people. They also jointly hoisted the flag of the Palestinian state at the venue of the embassy.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ershad said the government and the people of Bangladesh will continue to remain by the side of their Palestinian brethren in their just struggle to establish their homeland. The president reiterated Bangladesh's support to the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the representation of all concerned for the solution of the Palestinian problem.

Speaking on the occasion, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat described President Ershad and the people of Bangladesh as true brothers and friends of Palestinian people. He referred to the participation of Bangladesh's freedom fighters in the just struggle of the Palestinian people and said they fought alongside with the Palestinian people. The PLO chairman commended the support extended by Bangladesh in different forums, including the United Nations, to the cause of the Palestinian people.

Speaking at a news conference, the PLO chairman declared that the reality of independent Palestine state is not far distant. It is now only a stone's throw away. The PLO chief again expressed the (?hope) that the Palestine national flag will be raised in Al-Quds al-Sharif very soon. Mr 'Arafat said 117 countries all over the world have so far recognized the newly proclaimed Palestine state. PLO has already got observer status at the UN General Assembly.

During formal talks between President Ershad and great Mr 'Arafat in Dhaka today, Bangladesh has reaffirmed its total and all-out support to the Palestinian people till their final victory. [passage omitted]

The PLO chairman has now left Dhaka, ending his 2-day visit to Bangladesh.

PRC's Army Chief of Staff Meets With Ershad
BK1103164489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] The visiting chief of general staff of Chinese People's Liberation Army, General Chi Haotian, called on the president in Dhaka today. They discussed matters relating to further strengthening of the already existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General M. Atiqur Rahman, Principal Staff Officer to the Supreme Commander Major General Mohammad Abdul Latif, and Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Chen Songlu were present on the occasion.

Feted by President

BK1203131289 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] President Ershad praised China as true, (?trusted), and dependable friend of Bangladesh. The Government and the people of China stood by Bangladesh like a trusted friend in all the crisis ever since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. The president was speaking at a dinner hosted by him in honor of the visiting chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, General Chi Haotian, in Dhaka Saturday night. President Ershad, who is also supreme commander of the Armed Forces, said the Armed Forces of Bangladesh, have been passing through a process of reorganization. He said modern military equipment are necessary for building a strong armed force. The president said the visit of General Chi is a symbol of the existing good relations between the two brotherly countries. He expressed the hope that this would contribute to the further strengthening ties between the armed forces of Bangladesh and China.

Reciprocating the sentiments, General Chi Haotian said his country is committed to strengthening the Bangladesh-China relations. He referred to President Ershad's visits to China on five occasions in the past. He said the

people of China will never forget the president's contribution to the development and strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries. The Chinese general noted that Bangladesh has made outstanding achievements in developing the country under the leadership of President Ershad.

India

Narora Atomic Power Project Attains 'Criticality'
BK1303085689 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The first unit of the Narora Atomic Power Project in Uttar Pradesh has attained criticality. The minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan, told the Lok Sabha today that this marks another milestone in the country's plans to harness nuclear energy for economic development. In a statement, he said it also demonstrates the country's capability in tapping nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The 235-megawatts first unit uses natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator and coolant. Experiments will now be conducted for 2 months at low power and generation of power will begin shortly afterward. Commercial operation at full power of the reactor is expected in 5 or 6 months. The power produced at the Narora plant will be shared by the member-states of the northern electricity region. The 532-crore-rupee Narora plant incorporates several improvements over the designs of the Rajasthan and Madras atomic power stations.

Navy Acquires Soviet Submarine; 2 More Expected
BK1103033289 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] One more submarine from the Soviet Union has joined the Indian Navy. "INS Sindhu Keshari" is the second submarine to join the fleet in the past 1 month. "INS Sindhu Ratna" had joined the Navy during February.

The other submarines with the Navy are: "INS Sindhu Ghosh," "INS Sindhu Vir," "INS Sindhu Dhvaj," and "INS Sindhu Raj." "Sindhu Keshari" is capable of sinking any large ship. Two more such submarines are expected to join the Navy later.

Joint Statement on Mongolian Leader's Visit
BK1003160589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] India and Mongolia have expressed concern on the continuing tense situation in Afghanistan. In a joint statement issued at the end of the 4-day state visit to India by the Mongolian president [title as heard], Mr Jambyn Batmonh, the two countries said that the Afghan people should be permitted to decide on their own political destiny independently and without outside interference and intervention.

The statement said that the talks between Mr Batmonh and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi were held in an atmosphere of warmth, friendship, and mutual understanding.

Reviewing bilateral relations, the Indian and Mongolian leaders expressed satisfaction of cooperation in various fields. They expressed a desire to identify new areas, including joint ventures, trade promotion, and more exchange of scholars and researchers.

Bihar Chief Minister Formally Resigns 10 Mar
BK1003162089 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] The Bihar chief minister, Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad, has resigned. He submitted his resignation to the state governor, Mr Jagannath Pahadia, in Patna this evening. A Raj Bhavan [governor's house] press release said the governor has accepted his resignation. He has asked Mr Azad to continue as chief minister until alternative arrangements are made.

The Bihar Congress-I legislature is meeting in Patna tomorrow to elect a new leader.

New Chief Elected Unanimously
BK1103130689 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Mr Satyendra Narayan Sinha will be the new chief minister of Bihar. He was elected leader of the state Congress-I legislative party at its meeting in Patna this afternoon.

Mr Sinha's name was proposed by the outgoing chief minister, Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad, and seconded by the Bihar Congress-I president, Dr Jagannath Mishra, and three others. Union ministers Mr Bhajan Lal and Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai and the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-Indira] general secretary, Mr A.R. Mallu, were present as central observers. The swearing-in ceremony takes place this evening. Our Patna correspondent reports that election of Mr Sinha was unanimous.

12-Member Ministry Sworn In
BK1103161589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Excerpts] In Bihar, a 12-member ministry headed by Mr Satyendra Narayan Sinha, has been sworn in. The governor, Mr Jagannath Pahadia, administered the oath of office to the chief minister and his cabinet colleagues at Raj Bhavan [governor's residence] in Patna this evening. [passage omitted]

After the swearing-in ceremony the new chief minister told our correspondent, Amjad Ahmed, that he will expand his ministry at an appropriate time. Our correspondent reports that three of his ministers were in the outgoing cabinet of Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad. [passage omitted]

Punjab Committee Meets; 'Terrorists' Kill 6
BK1103031589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] In Punjab, the special committee of civil and police officials set up to implement the prime minister's package of measures met in Amritsar yesterday to discuss the follow up action. The state police chief, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told newsmen that the meeting reviewed all steps taken since the announcement of the package last week. It was agreed that strong action should be continued against terrorists, but care should be taken that law-abiding people are not harassed. The governor, Mr S.S. Ray, presided over the meeting.

Terrorists gunned down six persons in separate incidents in the state. In Amritsar District, three farmers were shot dead in village Chak Sikander and a bullet-ridden body was recovered from village Delhan. A shopkeeper was shot dead in Rupar and a factory owner was killed in Ludhiana.

12 'Terrorists' Arrested; Arms Seized in Punjab
BK1203091189 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] In Punjab, security forces have arrested 12 more terrorists from different parts of the state since yesterday. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from their possession. Six of them were arrested in Faridkot District and two each in Patiala, Bhatinda and Amritsar Districts.

Meanwhile, the terrorists shot dead two persons in Patti area of Amritsar District. The victims were forcibly taken away of their houses before being killed outside the village Darna.

Iran

Paper Says U.S. Staged San Diego Bombing
LD1203090489 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—An Iranian daily Sunday blamed the U.S. Administration for planting a bomb that destroyed a car driven by the wife of a U.S. Navy captain who ordered the shooting of an Iran Air plane with nearly 300 aboard last year. KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL said the bombing of Mrs. Will Roger's van "will not be the last (American) attempt to implicate Iran..."

News of Friday's bombing in San Diego, California, received minor attention in the Iranian press Saturday with newspapers carrying it either in the form of a short news item or among news briefs.

The U.S. TV network NBC quoted Navy officials as saying that the Bush Administration had planned next week to withdraw four warships of the about 24 U.S. ships in the region's waters but that after the incident "than plan may now be put on hold."

The English-language daily suggested that the bomb was planted to create the necessary climate in the U.S. that would justify the expulsion of pro-Tehran Iranians living in the U.S. It referred to a U.S. Senate debate on March 8 when the deportation of "radical" Iranian students was discussed in the aftermath of Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [edict] sanctioning the execution of Salman Rushdie blasphemous novel.

"The panel discussion was convened to tailor a U.S. response to Iran in 'The Satanic Verses' affair, with an eye to support Britain in the wake of the diplomatic slap that was delivered to Whitehall [UK Government] in the breaking of London-Tehran ties," it added in an editorial.

KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL gave examples of contrived incidents by the U.S. to demonize other nations—incidents as far back as the sinking of the U.S. Maine at Havana, for which Spain was blamed, and as recent as the bombing of a Pan Am jet over Scotland last December.

"It comes as no surprise that the vehicle driven by the wife of Navy Captain W. Roger's of U.S. Vincennes/Iran Airbus fame, was bombed one day after the (Senate) hearing," the paper said. The Iran Airbus with 290 aboard was shot down over the Strait of Hormuz last July 3.

The paper was not astonished by the immediate finger pointing of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in investigating "possible Iranian involvement" in the San Diego Incident. "The shallowness of American maneuvers in this regard will only serve to highlight the fact that the U.S. is a nation bereft of ideas in dealing with the Muslim world," it concluded.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon
LD1003192589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1530 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and Armed Forces acting commander in chief, at Tehran University on 10 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses omitted] The most important occasion of this week was the auspicious day of Mab'ath [Muhammad's mission] and the auspicious birthday of his holiness the lord of the martyrs, Imam Husayn [the third Shi'ite imam], which is tomorrow and also coincides with Guards' Day. These are the subjects of my

main speech and also the issue of "The Satanic Verses," and the odd and strange confrontation of blasphemy with faith and confrontation of Western arrogance with Islam. [passage omitted]

In honor of Imam Husayn and in order to show our commitment to his path, we have allocated Guards' Day to be celebrated on Imam Husayn's birthday, which is very appropriate. Our reason is to recognize the blood and self-sacrifice of the Guards during the 8 years of the war and even before that. You are all quite familiar with their bravery and self-sacrifice. You all understand the importance of the Guards Corps. The future of this group is more important than its past because, as you are aware, we are engaged in a struggle against blasphemy and arrogance; and anyone who chooses this path will certainly need the Armed Forces and a wing of it, that is the Guards Corps. As long as these forces exist, our enemies will think twice before attacking us, and the nation can enter the reconstruction phase. We are grateful to his holiness imam who has reminded us of the importance of this group at certain junctures and has supported it. In the last message of his holiness and his last measure, announced yesterday—which was an appropriate time, that is, on the eve of Guards' Day—his holiness strengthened the position of the Guards by appointing a new representative. In the past, several 'ulema and scholars were in charge of this group, as representatives of the imam. The last such representative was the illustrious martyr, Muhammadi. After him, for certain reasons, the imam did not have a representative in the Guards Corps. His Excellency Mr 'Araqi was performing the duty as Martyr Mahallati's deputy. [passage omitted] His holiness the imam appointed our brother Hujjat ol-Islam Nuri as his representative in the Guards Corps. Thanks to this appointment and the imam's emphasis on implementing the law and the rights of the commanders and his holiness's representative, the situation has returned to normal.

Thanks to the commitments of the imam, our nation, and all the forces to Imam Husayn's path, we have entered a new struggle against Western imperialism, the spark of which was kindled by the perverted book, "The Satanic Verses." The event, however is much more important than this. It is an opposition and real clash between the wishes of global blasphemy and arrogance, headed by Western arrogance, on the one hand, and Islam's path and the contents of Be'sat [reference to Muhammad's being chosen as God's messenger], on the other, a manifestation of which is shown in the Islamic revolution today under the leadership of the imam of the ummah. This opposition and these contradictions manifested themselves once in the idea of staging a coup d'etat, once in the guise of a war, once in the form of a blind armed uprising, and another time in the form of tempting and misleading propaganda of their propaganda system.

Today, however, the opposition took a new form. They hid behind a shield named human rights, or the right of freedom of speech. We in return sought refuge behind a

huge phenomenon: the sanctity of the prophets, the divine books, and the emotions of one billion Muslims. They are on one side and we are on the opposite side. The issue, this matter, is one of the rarest and most strange events in history. I cannot remember a similar example; it is impossible for us to predict the dimensions of this issue. It is predictable to some extent, but in reality the issue is so complex that if the instigators themselves were to fail to find a proper cure, it is not clear what the consequences would be. In our opinion, however, the issue is this: We consider Islam, justice, and the revolution to be in opposition to the interests of the arrogant powers. We see these engaged in hand-to-hand combat with global arrogance.

Had the situation, therefore, not demonstrated itself in this form, it would have shown itself in another form. For the time being it has adopted this form. Of course, they adopted this form, but blundered badly. In their design and original idea, they thought they had chosen a good method. They thought that if they confronted the Islamic revolution of Iran with one of the accepted and admired values of the Western world—and even perhaps the accepted value of all the freedom-loving people of the world—Iran would lose in the confrontation, and its leadership would be defeated because this is something acceptable to the entire world. Who in the world today can oppose freedom of speech? No honest person can be found to be against freedom of speech, or refuses to defend such a freedom. We ourselves were prepared to give our lives in defense of freedom of speech.

They found an issue like this and in my opinion, in my personal opinion, the imam of the ummah took this measure because of its importance and the significance of other matters behind this issue and the fear that can overcome anyone when confronted by the leader of a revolution vis-a-vis the wave of propaganda against freedom of speech and writing a book. This is a very courageous measure. Look, a man who picks up his rifle to go to the battlefield is brave. A man might also be the vanguard in a fight, he might write an article and express his ideas. These are all important. However, when a person understands he is confronting so much propaganda and a demagogical subject—which deceived many of the Western writers and misled them to enter the arena—and he is still courageous enough to enter such a frightening arena as the leader of a revolution while being responsible for the revolution with the backing of hundreds of thousands of men, and he is the inheritor of such a revolution with so much blood and danger and the fate of the revolution at this juncture depends on a wise move, if he still enters an arena in which certainly thousands of writers and radio stations, speeches and press articles and films will confront him, this requires a great degree of courage, skill, and a strong heart. The imam showed such a courage, skill, and bravery, which created an interesting battlefield.

The Westerners made several mistakes. Their first mistake was the fact that they brought the issue to a point which demonstrated that everything had been planned.

For, when they were planning the subject of the book, they started their propaganda. In the face of their propaganda, the Muslims began their protests; and even before the imam's message and before we entered the arena, the Muslims of London entered the arena and warned Mrs Thatcher. Then Muslims in Pakistan protested and gave martyrs for the cause. It was clear they had made a mistake. The Westerners cannot say they were taken by surprise. Mrs Thatcher had been told in advance that the issue was dangerous. Even the head of Penguin books in India had given his analysis saying he felt that Muslims would rise up against this issue and that it would be better to avoid this subject. Their mistake was to leave evidence of their evil intentions.

Their second mistake was that they hastily employed their political resources to back the issue. This was a very big mistake. Had everything gone ahead normally—that is, a writer writes a book and the leader of a revolution objects—then a battle begins between the leader of the revolution and the author and some other writers rise to back the author. Had the events gone ahead like this, the events would have not turned to the present form. However, they acted stupidly and unwisely. They rushed matters.

As soon as the imam entered the arena, they—as if they had planned ahead—rose and convened a session of the EEC foreign ministers and in the same session immediately decided to recall their ambassadors from Iran. They demonstrated that the entire arrogant powers of the West are behind this issue, and this issue, instead of taking a cultural and literal form about freedom of speech, turned into a political issue, one of confronting the revolution and fighting against an Islamic current. It was demonstrated that they made similar mistakes in their subsequent moves. They incurred heavy losses, too. They poured all their resources behind the issue on the first day and now they realize they have nothing else left to offer. Their last deed was to recall their ambassadors, but they saw that Iran would not give in to such gestures. They threatened to sever ties; we took the initiative. Instead of their severing relations we showed them that this was not their weapon, it was ours. Although we have observed international regulations in the past and have in the past adjusted our moves to correspond with international norms, we showed that we were not prepared to continue the same under these circumstances. The vote of the Majlis to sever relations with Britain was similar to the vote over the deposing of Bani-Sadr; that is, the deputies were united. Twice in history in important political issues, I have observed that the Majlis has voted almost unanimously. This shows the solidarity of the people. They were counting on internal discord, but they saw that here, in the main issues, we have no discord. Of course, they have different tastes on which they debate.

The other mistake was that they brought all the hireling and lackey—as well as some deceived and misguided—writers and publishers onto the stage. For their part, they

entered the stage in a naive manner, gathering together, for example, out of spite against Muslims, to read "The Satanic Verses" in a meeting, reciting "The Satanic Verses" as if to say that is a resistance to us. They were afraid to publish the book, so they said: We will read it. Writers gathered together in a street and read for 2 hours. That was the weakest and basest measure taken against that Islamic movement.

Maybe the main reason for that is that their analysis is faulty. Their judgment is bad. They do not understand the Islamic world. They did not realize what would happen. They thought people were indifferent. They have contacts with leaders and governments. They are not in contact with the thoughts of the masses. Now they find themselves facing a wave and it is the masses that are on the stage. What can they do with the people?

In the United States, the head of the FBI says officially: I do not have the resources to control so many Iranians in the United States. We must close all the borders. We must expel them all. He thinks that it is only a question of Iranians. Were people not martyred in Pakistan? Were they not martyred in India? Were there not demonstrations in African countries? In Arabic countries? People are at the forefront everywhere. Why do you mention only Iranians? Why turn it into an Iranian matter when it is Islamic? That is why they embark on those deviant discussions.

In all of Europe and the United States, in Africa and Asia, Islamic countries and non-Islamic countries, there is not a Muslim who has not been hurt over the matter or who has not been saddened. There is not a single liberal or indifferent [as heard] person who would dare to defend the path of arrogance. Even those who are real cowards talk in a contradictory way. They say: We condemn "The Satanic Verses," but we do not accept the death edict; in this way they can exonerate themselves.

They have used the pretext that it is an intervention in their own internal affairs. This is an empty remark and the world today will not accept such a claim. I give you an example. The Lebanese who have acted against U.S. citizens outside the United States are tried in the United States. This is either international law or not. If you think that your trials are justified then an Englishman can be tried outside England and punished. Are not those who are currently being tried in Germany the ones you claim to be hijackers of a U.S. airliner in Lebanon? As they committed the crime in Lebanon why not send them there for trial? You have kidnapped them and are trying them. Give the same right to others! Their logic is not acceptable and they are even debating this between themselves. There are other desperate moves by the British. When we announced we were severing ties, the British made several other mistakes. These happened before we severed our relations. After we severed relations, 10 minutes after the Majlis vote, they called our charge in London and asked him what can the British Government do to satisfy the wishes of the Majlis; 10

minutes after the vote. We in turn said that the contents of the Majlis resolution are clear. Therefore, look at it and respond to our requests.

Mrs Thatcher, the home and foreign secretaries, all three, entered the arena and condemned the book and said the book has hurt the world of Islam and the Muslims of England and elsewhere, but none of them had the decisiveness and bravery to say they had made a mistake, that their support was wrongly given, that they were responsible, that they were the instigators of this. That is what we had asked. We asked them to agree that the British position toward the Islamic revolution and the world of Islam was incorrect. They showed their abjectness by condemning the book. However, their pride did not allow them to utter the truth and release themselves from this bind. Not only are they now humiliated, but they were unable to stop us from severing relations. Therefore, clearly they are not so wise and one should not believe that the satans are gathered together and hatching the best of plots. The worst plan was carried out and currently there are many questions in the British Parliament about why they did not have the appropriate tactical plan in this respect.

On the whole, what has happened so far is that the West is responsible for the instigation and support of an anti-Islamic move that is antihuman, an insulting accusatory action against what is held holy by Islam, and no Muslim can accept this and not fight it. On the other hand, they are also perplexed about what to do. They are at a dead end. If they remove the book then they have to withdraw their claim that their actions were in support of freedom. If they leave the book, no matter who has got it, printing it or in whatever library, it is cause for revolt. This is not about the book and reader, it is over the West trying to dictate to Islam and the Muslims will revolt against the West. Thus the only solution, though it is at the price of dishonoring the West, is for them to make a clearcut order for the withdrawal of the book from around the world and its burning. [crowd chants "Death to England"]

If they remove the book, if they choose this way and remove the book, then they have confessed to a great mistake and will then explain that it was not defense of freedom because such freedom and right do not exist. If the book stays, it will be a source of revolt forever, and so long as it is available there will be no chance of an understanding between true Muslims and supporters of this book. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Greetings to Khomeyni
LD1103122989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] On the anniversary of the blessed birthday of the prince of martyrs and the lord of the pious of the world, His Holiness Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, and on the occasion of Guards Day, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker, accompanied by Majlis deputies,

members of the IRGC Command Council, the Islamic Revolution Guards, the Islamic Revolution Committees, and a number of officials and employees of the Islamic Revolution Martyrs' Foundation, met today with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this meeting the Majlis speaker expressed his congratulations to the imam of the ummah on the occasion of this great day and talked about the imam's constructive role, messages, and guidelines in resolving society's problems and difficulties and the removal of difficulties of the legislature, the strengthening of the judiciary, and the goals of world blasphemy in publishing the book "The Satanic Verses." At the end, the imam of the ummah responded to the expression of sentiments by those present. We start this newscast by broadcasting the details of this visit.

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praises be to God. Salutations to the prophet of God and his progeny. On behalf of all those present, I express congratulations to the imam of the ummah, our illustrious leader, on the occasion of the anniversary of the blessed birthday of the third imam, His Holiness Aba 'Abdullah al-Husayn, the leader of the strugglers and martyrs of world history. We are grateful he has granted permission to receive the Majlis deputies, the members of the cabinet, the Revolution Guards—including the commanders of the Guards and the Revolution Committees—and officials of the Martyrs Foundation, each of whom is in some way connected with this holy day.

On this blessed, felicitous, and inspiring day, on behalf of all those present, I express my thanks for granting us this honor. Especially in view of the conditions which have come about as the result of Your Eminence's recent messages and guidelines to our society, as a sign of gratitude, and in order to point out some of the results of your guidelines, it is necessary for me to make a few points in this holy presence.

Some time ago in this very mosque, I requested Your Eminence to talk to us and tell us that some of the difficulties existing in society as the result of some differences of opinion could be removed. Thanks to God, today we see that many of them have been removed. With the formation of the Expediency Discernment Council, the difficulty of legislation and the differences which occasionally existed between the Majlis and the esteemed Council of Guardians were removed, and from now on we will have no further difficulties.

As the result of your guidelines, differences of opinion and views have been reduced to a minimum, and there are only few cases which require the judgment of the council.

As the result of your advice and the expression of your positions in the past year, many of the ideological difficulties of our society have been resolved and the

paths have been made clear. The position of the system and the revolution have been clarified. The clergy, the issue of jurisprudence, and intellectual issues which might have led to some anxiety in society from that source [as heard] have been set on a correct course, or are about to be set right.

In the judiciary one can see a considerable dynamism as the result of your counsels—especially with regard to the message you issued providing guidance to the leadership of the Eastern world, and the verdict you issued regarding the plot concerning "The Satanic Verses." New doors have been opened on an international scale in the confrontation between Islam and the deviated thinking in the world. Today we are witnessing a kind of export of the revolution, whereby throughout the world pious, detached, and healthy individuals and true Muslims see the path before them. They know their enemies and their friends.

Although world blasphemy is making massive efforts to describe the issues in this contest as a confrontation between freedom of expression and Islamic values, nevertheless, thanks be to God, they are unable to give any credence to that sophistry and fallacy. The world is beginning to understand that true confrontation and contradiction are between colonial ambitions and the anti-divine aims of the Western world and Islamic values and the demands of the oppressed, deprived, and truth-seeking people of the world.

In our society, we of course have some difficulties too; but we hope that in the future we will again benefit from Your Eminence's guidelines and interventions. The problems of high prices, inflation, and unemployment are some of the issues which are serious problems of the people at this juncture. Of course, the officials, the Majlis, and the government are trying to resolve these problems; but, in my view, like previous problems, they also require more detailed guidelines and intervention by Your Eminence, so that at this stage we can solve the difficulties of our people.

On behalf of the Majlis deputies and all the Guards I should inform Your eminence that the people are so obedient to your commands that when in the Majlis, the Guards, the committees, the Armed Forces, the government, or any sector in the society they become aware of the views of Your Eminence, they will regard their own views—no matter how strongly they adhere to their views—as being worthless compared with your views. All of us are prepared, as the result of the experiences which we have had during the past years from the beginning of the Islamic movement to the present time, to implement Your Eminence's views with complete confidence, views which have always been useful, a source of guidance, and a solution to our problems. We hope that at different junctures we will always have the benefit of your views. I do not regard it as seemly to waste your time any longer. I hope you will bless us with your prayers and your advice. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [end recording]

Reza'i Cables Khomeyni on IRGC's Fidelity

*LD1003181289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Following the appointment of Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh 'Abdollah Nuri as the imam's representative to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Mr Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the IRGC, sent the following cable to the presence of the imam of the ummah today:

In His exalted name. To the auspicious presence of the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow lengthen: We thank you for your attention and favors for the destiny of the revolutionary IRGC organization, which is the guardian of the achievements and holy values of the revolution. There is no doubt that the appointment of the pious and wise brother, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sheykh 'Abdollah Nuri, who is one of the shining and revolutionary figures of the Islamic Republic, as Your Excellency's representative to the IRGC shows your kindness for the Corps and mobilization members.

Dear Imam, your children in the Corps have always had and continue to have the honor of benefiting from the bountiful presence of the representative of the supreme jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih], and one of the benefits of this presence is ensuring the ideological views of the Corps and mobilization members and their adherence to pure Muhammadan ideology. The presence of Your Excellency's representative in the Corps will result in further strengthening the Corps' ties with the faithful clergy and other armed forces, as well as with revolutionary organizations. There is no doubt that such coordination will result in increased defensive capabilities of the Islamic revolution—an arrow that will pierce the heart of the sworn enemies of our revolution.

Your Excellency, we guarantee that your children in the Corps will—as they defended the revolution and Islam on all fronts by listening to the orders of their leader in the first decade of the revolution—continue to work within the framework of Your Excellency's guidance and in the new phase of the revolution by following totally the law and coordinating with the representative of Your Excellency. Your children in the Corps will make even greater efforts than Your Excellency demanded, along with all revolutionary organizations, particularly the hard working reconstruction crusade. They will use all their experience and capabilities to neutralize modern idolatry, combat ossification and the pseudo piety of the pseudo pious, and expand the rule of Islam in the world.

We pray to the Lord Almighty for long life for the noble imam and the victory of all Muslims on all the fronts against international idolatry.

Majlis Speaker Addresses Guards, Armed Forces

*LD1103132989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech to a large gathering of the outstanding commanders from various units of the Sarollah Guard [in charge of enforcing Islamic morality], the Islamic Revolution Committees, and the mobilized forces of offices and ministries, is the subject of our final news report this hour.

In a speech delivered at this ceremony, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces congratulated the people on the anniversary of the blessed birth of Imam Husayn, may God's blessing be upon him. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the establishment of the IRGC and the Islamic Revolution Committee as the means to safeguard the Islamic Revolution. He said it was due to divine guidance that the idea of forming such a force entered the mind of the leader of the revolution, and today the security within the country and on the frontiers is in the hands of the IRGC and the Revolution Committees. The mobilization forces, by assisting the Armed Forces, also reached a luminous peak in the history of Islam. The rest of the Armed Forces—whether the Army, the Gendarmarie, or the police—were also strengthened by the assistance given by these forces, and committed acts of bravery.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that today our Armed Forces—whether the revolutionary foundations or the previously mentioned organs—have formed a professional and committed force based on their experience gained from 8 years of war and 10 years of struggle against counterrevolutionary plots. These forces are a thorn in the enemies' side and an impediment in the path of colonialism's vile goals.

The Majlis speaker reiterated that a suitable organization will be set up whereby sections performing repetitive tasks will be removed, training intensified, order implemented, and fraternity and honesty among the forces strengthened. This would be an integral, unified, trained, experienced, and expert organization that would defend the Koran and dear Islam. Today, with the effective guidance of the leader of the revolution, we are capable of establishing such a force.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued by referring to the publication of "The Satanic Verses" and the propaganda waged by arrogance against the revolution and its leader. He said: Today, our enemies under the pretext of freedom of speech and writing have placed the revolution and its leader under attack in a dastardly fashion. However, our revolution has a first claim to freedom of speech and writing. This adverse propaganda has been set in motion to keep us quiet. If they were the guardians of freedom, they would protest Turkey's banning women from wearing the hejab, and they would take a stand against the atrocities inflicted upon the Palestinian people, as well as the chemical bombings of Halabjah and

other inhuman actions. However, today's people Muslims are alert, and this has inspired great terror in the heart of the arrogant powers. The enemies' recent conspiracy has backfired.

In conclusion, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the Revolution Guards to follow the path of his holiness the lord of the martyrs [Imam Husayn], and remain alert to war issues.

Urges Vigilance After 'Ambush'

*LD1103144989 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Acting Armed Forces commander Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today called on the military to be on alert in the wake of "recent military moves" of the Iraq Army.

Hojjat ol-Islam Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave the warning in a speech to 50,000 Islamic Revolution's Guards (IRGC) men on "Guards Day". He was apparently referring to an Iraqi ambush on 17 February during which 5 Iranian soldiers were martyred near Baneh, 30 kms from the Iraqi border in Kordestan Province.

The incident was reported Wednesday to the UN Secretary General's office in New York by Iran's Ambassador Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati. The UN military observer group has confirmed the killings but could not say they were carried out by Iraq, according to a spokesman.

On Wednesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani stressed that Iraqi vessels would not be allowed to sail the Arvand River as long as Iraqi troops remained on more than 2,000 sq kms of Iranian soil.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also called for the omission of parallel military organizations in the Army and IRGC and to consolidate the position of the military as a whole. The merger of the two forces has been called for by some deputies in the current Majlis debate over the budget bill but the Majlis speaker was apparently referring to joint operation of some military units and branches only.

"We largely owe the security of our frontiers and homeland to the IRGC and the committees," he said at the gathering at Shahid Shirudi stadium in Central Tehran.

'Revolutionary Forces' Lauded on Guards Day

*LD1103101989 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—A Persian daily says the increase in the nation's resistance will automatically abort many conspiracies before they get off the ground. This is provided that revolutionary forces increase preparedness to counter the plots, said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an article on Imam Husayn's (Greetings Upon Him) birthday, named "Guards Day".

The daily said although the enemies' conspiracies have failed so far, yet this did not mean they had ended and therefore the forces of the Islamic revolution should vigilantly control the situation.

An important point which has been stressed by the officials is that henceforth more attention should be paid to the forces guarding the Islamic revolution. The reason is that Islam has numerous hostile enemies who have suffered from Islam and would not give up any chance to inflict a reciprocal blow, the paper added.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said Guards Day was marked to praise the services of unknown soldiers of Islam. Although they are anonymous, yet their fame and power has spread throughout the world. Today it has been proved to the world that the Islamic revolution with its popular backing will survive firmly and powerfully, concluded the daily.

The 3rd day of the Islamic month of Sha'ban, the birthday of the third imam of Shi'a Muslims, Imam Husayn (629-680 A.D.) was declared Guards Day after 1979 to honor the Islamic Revolution's Guards.

USSR Envoy Conveys Shevardnadze Note to Velayati

*LD1203164389 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT
12 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Soviet ambassador to Tehran Vladimir Gudev submitted a message from Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

The two sides discussed agreements reached during Shevardnadze's visit concerning expansion of ties, and regional and international cooperation. They expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved.

The Soviet foreign minister visited Iran late February this year to deliver personally Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reply to the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni.

The Imam's unprecedented message last January had asked Gorbachev to study Islam as a substitute for the communist system.

Pakistani Envoy Discusses Naval Cooperation

*LD0903183189 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT
9 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—Ways to strengthen Tehran-Islamabad maritime cooperation figured in during a meeting between Pakistani ambassador Tanvir Ahmad Khan and Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan.

Ahmad Khan said, Pakistan was ready to cooperate with Iran in this vital area, and invited the Navy chief for a friendly visit to that country's naval bases.

Rear-Admiral Malekzadegan welcoming the proposal said the two neighbours can stage a joint display of their naval prowess in the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean in the future. He also announced that Iran's naval academy is ready to accept Pakistani naval cadets for higher training.

Pakistani naval cadets are to arrive here tomorrow for a tour of Iran's naval training centers. Three Iranian Navy warships, currently on a mission on the high seas are due to call at Karachi Friday.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD1103064189 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT
11 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived here for talks on the upcoming Islamic conference in Saudi Arabia. He was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Yaqub Khan said he would discuss the Afghanistan issue with Iranian officials before the meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held in Riyadh next Sunday. Yaqub Khan described the time of his visit to Iran as "sensitive".

Discusses 'Verses' With Velayati

LD1103143489 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT
11 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan denounced "The Satanic Verses" and called for firm action by Muslims states against its publication.

"I hope the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] will take a decisive stand to condemn this book," he said in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati Saturday. The OIC conference is due to be held in Riyadh on Monday and the Salman Rushdie affairs is expected to figure prominently in the agenda.

The Foreign Ministry's public relations office quoted Dr Velayati as saying that Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [edict] for Rushdie's execution was based on Islamic law accepted by all Muslim scholars. "We will seriously follow up this matter," he said. He expressed hope that Pakistan and other Muslim states would adopt firm stand against the author and publishers of the sacrilegious novel.

Islamabad has banned the book and Rushdie's entry into Pakistan.

The imam's fatwah was issued on 14 February two days after six Pakistanis were killed in a demonstration protesting against the book.

The two officials also discussed the Afghanistan issue and agreed that consultation on the future of the neighboring country would help its people gain the right of self-determination.

Dr Velayati said he hoped the mujahidin based in Iran and Pakistan would show greater understanding towards one another and remain united in order to start rebuilding their war-ravaged country soon.

Received by Khamene'i, Musavi

LD1103172889 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Mr Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Pakistani minister of foreign affairs, who is in Tehran to meet and confer with officials of our country, was received by President Khamene'i this afternoon. During the meeting the Pakistani foreign minister conveyed a message from the Pakistani president and reaffirmed the very friendly relations between the two Muslim neighbors. He also said Pakistan hopes that the ICO session will adopt a very strong position against "The Satanic Verses" and its accursed author. He stressed that the Muslim people of Pakistan have severely reacted to the publication of this book and the entire world of Islam has condemned it. He also informed Mr Khamene'i of the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Mr Khamene'i in turn thanked him for the message from the Pakistani president and, noting the two countries' long history of relations, stressed that Iran and Pakistan should continue to exchange views on international issues and issues of interest. [passage omitted]

In a meeting with Prime Minister Musavi this afternoon, the Pakistani foreign minister also stressed his country's desire to expand cooperation and to follow up the agreements reached on border issues and drug trafficking. Noting the positive results of the recent session of Iran-Pakistan economic commission, he welcomed the Islamic Republic's suggestions to expand the existing economic infrastructure between the two sides as well as increasing the activities of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization].

Mr Musavi in turn expressed his pleasure with the variety in the areas of cooperation between Iran and Pakistan last year and reaffirmed continuing cooperation in combating drug trafficking. [passage omitted] Mr Musavi also stressed the importance of the unity of the Islamic forces in Afghanistan and expressed the hope that various mujahidin groups will soon reach a comprehensive agreement and solution in order to establish an Islamic government in this country.

In today's meeting between the Pakistani foreign minister and our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, the issue of Afghanistan and latest developments there were reviewed and the importance of exchanging views between the two Muslim neighbors of Afghanistan aimed

at helping the people of that country to control their own destiny was reaffirmed by both sides. The Pakistani foreign minister noted the deep and important relations between Iran and Pakistan and said the appropriate solution to the Afghan situation is very important to both countries as well as for the future of the region. During the meeting Mr Velayati also described bilateral relations as fraternal and in the interest of peace in the region. Moreover, he noted the current agreement and coordination between Afghan mujahidin stationed in Iran and Pakistan and expressed the hope that with further understanding all various strata of Muslim people of Afghanistan will be able to take control of their own destiny without foreign interference and hand in hand reconstruct their destroyed land. [passage omitted]

Discusses Afghanistan, ICO

*LD1103185589 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan today briefed Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Islamabad's stance toward the situation in neighbouring Afghanistan following withdrawal of Soviet forces.

Yaqub Khan also explained the need for coordination and understanding among all mujahidin forces for establishment of a popular interim government in Afghanistan.

Turning to the publication of "The Satanic Verses" in Britain, Yaqub Khan assured the speaker that member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) are to take an unanimous and decisive stance against Salman Rushdie's blasphemous book in their forthcoming meet at Riyadh.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied that enemies are trying to misportray that Islamic teachings are against freedom of expression, while "the fact is, there is a big difference between freedom and insult."

"If OIC does not take a firm stance in this regard the ummah's trust in this body will certainly diminish," said the speaker adding that the 46-member OIC can seize "this historical opportunity" to prove its Islamic nature.

Tehran-Islamabad relations were also discussed in the meeting.

Yaqub Khan arrived here this morning, and has already met President 'Ali Khamene'i, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Concludes Visit, Departs

*LD1203064589 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT
12 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Iran and Pakistan reached major agreements on presenting the Rushdie's issue at the Riyadh conference, said Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Before leaving Tehran Sunday morning he said "We have reached (?agreement on) how to present the Rushdie issue and his book at the meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC]." The meeting is due to start on Monday.

The visiting foreign minister expressed hope that the OIC could "perfectly reflect the strong feelings of the Islamic community against 'The Satanic Verses'." Pakistan was one of the first governments which took a "firm and clear stand" against the novel by Indian-born Rushdie, he said.

Yaqub Khan made the remarks before his departure at the end of a one-day official visit. He was seen off at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Regional issues, formation of the interim government by Afghan mujahidin, expansion of bilateral economic ties, joint action against drug smuggling, and border security were among subjects discussed between the two countries' officials.

Yaqub Khan also held talks with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and Foreign Minister Velayati.

Pakistan May Mediate in Impasse With Saudi Arabia

*LD1203081689 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT
12 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Pakistan could mediate between Iran and Saudi Arabia to pave the way for resumption of ties which were severed after the hajj massacre in 1987, an Iranian daily wrote Sunday.

The TEHRAN TIMES said Islamabad's foreign minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan who ended a one day visit to Tehran today "may also play a role in bridging little rifts that have hitherto appeared in Saudi-Iranian relations."

Iran is due to participate in a ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] in Riyadh Monday and the English-language daily urged Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati to head the Iranian delegation.

"We would strongly suggest that... Velayati head the Iranian team to the OIC meet in view of its importance in aiming at creating a new climate in regional politics," the paper added wrote in an editorial.

"The (OIC) meeting takes on a higher dimension for Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, which are all aware of a common Islamic consensus on a number of issues... among them... the blasphemies done to Islam... in (Salman Rushdie's) abominable novel 'The Satanic Verses'."

The paper said a recent statement by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal that nothing stood in the way of Tehran-Riyadh ties "augurs well (and) actually may lead to a formal dialogue to be initiated between the two countries after a year of ruptured ties."

On other subjects to be discussed at the OIC meeting, TEHRAN TIMES said now that the Afghan mujahidin based in Pakistan had formed an interim government "it was important to bear in mind that without the support of the Afghan Shi'as in Kabul... the liberation of the capital can only be a remote possibility."

"Both Pakistan and Iran will have to find a common way either to recognize the interim government in Afghanistan or suggest solutions that will make this possible in the near future," the paper said.

KEYHAN Assesses Upcoming ICO Meeting
LD1103182589 Tehran IRNA in English 1809 GMT
11 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—A Persian daily today dwelt on the foreign ministers meet of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held in Riyadh next Monday, and whether the 46-state group would live up to its expectations.

The 18th OIC conference, said the evening KEYHAN is of special importance "in view of Iran's participation and the furor created by British author Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses,' which is expected to top the agenda. However, it warned that the OIC meet should not be turned into a move to mend Tehran's ties with London, ruptured over the British Government's adding of insult to Muslim wounds.

Iran had boycotted the OIC meets in Kuwait and Baghdad and walked out of the Amman meet in protest to the Jordanian Government's improper behaviour, it recalled.

The daily said, OIC intends to discuss and possibly condemn the publication of the sacrilegious book by the West, and thus Riyadh could very well prove to be a test for some OIC members "enjoying long friendly ties with the West, particularly Britain to water down such blatant insults to Islam and its sanctities."

OIC's record is frustrating and contrary to its charter, and judging by its performance "excerpt for few cases, it has done no more than releasing softly-worded resolutions against the U.S. and the regime occupying Palestine, lacking anything practical," it added.

Only the 1973 OIC conference at Lahore could be considered as a success, recalled KEYHAN, because Muslim states for the first time condemned the U.S. for its support for the Zionist entity. 1973 also saw the recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization and admittance of Bangladesh as a new member.

The fact is, OIC has never been taken seriously by world Muslims because of its ultra conservative policy, said the daily and pointed that "rather than untying knots for Muslims it has gradually turned into a dead knot itself."

The timing of the Riyadh conference is all the more crucial, it said, especially since the Muslim world is still facing many problems such as the continued occupation of Palestine, the Afghanistan issue, Lebanon, Arab border disputes "and last but not the least the Iraqi regime's obstructing of U.N. Resolution 598."

From the cultural point of view, the situation of Muslim states is even worse since they still receive news pertinent to their peoples from non-Muslims, said KEYHAN. Although Muslim states make up the world's major oil exporters they have yet to work out a coordinated oil policy, it added. In view of such problems, OIC now seems to want the Islamic Republic and views it as a regional power capable of solving some of its difficulties.

Paper Calls For ICO Action Against Britain
LD1203101689 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT
12 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—The success of the Riyadh conference would depend on whether it took measures against Britain or not, the daily ABRAR commented in an editorial Sunday.

"Without paying attention to threats of economic sanctions, an oil embargo can be imposed on Britain for being guilty of insulting Islam," it said.

The Rushdie conspiracy was against the whole Islamic world and thus the meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Monday "could be successful if it takes decisions against the conspirator, that is Britain."

Britain had stubbornly stood against one billion Muslims and "supported insults to the holiest beliefs," the paper said.

Last Tuesday the Islamic Republic broke off relations with Britain after London refused to condemn the author of "The Satanic Verses".

"Islamic countries must understand that more than they needing the British Government, it is London that needs them."

As for other Western states that had supported London's stand, the paper believed none "had a desire to follow Britain's rope into the pit" and risk a break in diplomatic ties.

ICO Urged To Show Unity, Confirm Imam's Edict
*LD1203122689 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT
12 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—States taking part in the Riyadh conference tomorrow have been challenged to show their Islamic commitment by responding firmly to the insults directed at Islam in "The Satanic Verses".

"This time the Islamic governments, by taking a proper and wise stand, must show they follow their peoples and they are not alien to Islam," said the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Sunday.

The Islamic world had effective levers to put pressure on the enemies of Islam and the supporters of the sacrilegious novel. "The Islamic world must clarify once and for ever that it will never tolerate such things and will retaliate any hostile attitude towards the Muslims' sanctities by any country."

The paper urged the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to confirm the fatwah [edict] of Salman Rushdie and adopt a firm and effective stance against those which have supported the publication of the novel by former Indian Muslim, Salman Rushdie.

On the eve of the OIC foreign ministers' session, the daily's editorial referred to the organization's poor record during its 20 years of existence and said: "The current developments in the Islamic world have created the necessary ground, to some extent, for the conference to redress its past." "The fact is that the OIC has never exposed the power of Muslims and has always been alien to popular movements in the Islamic world." It said "the reputation of Islam" was at stake and believed that the Rushdie affair must be put at the top of the session's agenda.

Paper Hails Majlis Speaker's Solution for Book
*LD1103074189 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—An Iranian daily has urged the West to think about the Majlis speaker's solution for ending the Salman Rushdie affair by destroying all copies of "The Satanic Verses".

"The West and the supporters of the book should consider the words of Mr ('Akbar Hashemi) Rafsanjani carefully, coolly and objectively," wrote the English-language TEHRAN TIMES Saturday.

The editorial suggested that the West had no choice but to reconsider its stand because Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [edict] against Rushdie's life "will remain valid until its cause exists."

"It is a matter of Islam which is followed by over one billion Muslims who will continue their protests as long as this Satanic book exists in any corner of the world."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivering Friday prayers' sermons warned that as long as the book remained available to readers, mostly in the West, it would always be a source of Muslim anger and rebellion.

"Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave another chance to the West to think seriously about the deep impact of the Western support to a novel which has enraged the Muslims and created a political dilemma between Muslims as a whole and the Western governments," wrote the TEHRAN TIMES.

It expressed regret that the West failed to understand the deep feelings of Muslims about their religion and that throughout their history they had been, and would be in future, ready to sacrifice their lives and properties to keep their Islamic values in tact.

The paper said Imam Khomeyni had only performed "his simple Islamic duty" when issued the fatwah. "If Britain and its allies consider that political blackmail can work in this issue then they are wrong. This is not a question of Iran or any other single country."

Today Iran was leading the protest against the book but, the paper believes, tomorrow more countries would join Iran as other nations would put pressure on their governments to follow Tehran.

Post-War Plans To Improve Ties With West 'Hasty'
*LD1103082689 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Post Iran-Iraq war events have created serious doubts among Iranian circles on the wisdom of improving ties with the West, the daily KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL wrote Saturday.

In its editorial, the paper described Iran's post-war policy to mend fences with the West as "a very hasty and ill-planned strategy." Aware of the pre-dominant need to defend Iran's legitimate interests, Tehran thought the West might abandon "their animosity towards the Muslim people" after August 1988 ceasefire with Iraq.

But the deadlocked peace talks with Iraq, the West's charges of gross violations of human rights and, the finally the support for "The Satanic Verses" have brought revolutionary circles in Iran to admit that the rapprochement with the West "was a doomed effort."

The controversy over Salman Rushdie's book "was considered a blessing in disguise by the Iranian intelligentsia which favors a very low level of relations with the West in general and the former colonialist powers in particular." Britain's colonial character was "much hated today in Islamic Iran as it was decades ago," it added.

"The West has shockingly refused to at least try to respect our religious feelings which was not very difficult if judged from their own standards of human and other rights," it added.

The paper admitted that the deterioration of ties with the West, and with London in particular, "will no doubt have a negative effect on Iran's international relations." But, "it will also give our policymakers a new opportunity to reevaluate and weigh their practical actions."

Also, "it will reassure the revolution's friends and supporters that Iran is determined to safeguard its Islamic values and achievements even if it means a new round of political confrontation with anti-Islamic forces and enemies of the faith."

"Historically Western policy has been to ridicule Muslims and openly display insensitivity towards what the world of Islam and the Third World holds near and dear."

"With all these realities and the West's unlimited support for the Iraqi regime during the war, the Islamic Republic is not in a position to afford the luxury of 'friendly' relations with the West," the paper concluded.

Mohtashemi Calls For Boycott of British Goods
LD1203103189 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—A senior Iranian official Sunday called for a boycott of British products following the break in diplomatic relations.

Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said: "If we boycott Britain economically, we will strike the heaviest blow on this old colonialist country and supporter of infidelity."

Mohtashemi described the Majlis [as received] to rupture ties with Britain [words indistinct] as a golden page in the Majlis history."

Speaking at a military parade, he also lashed out at the rulers of Islamic countries for their "silence" towards the publication of Indian-born Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" sacrilaging [as received] Islam.

Montazeri, Mohtashemi Discuss Reaction to Edict
LD1203113789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Interior Minister Mohtashemi was received by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday evening. At this meeting the deputy leader referred to world reaction to the imam of the ummah's edict on Salman Rushdie, author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses." He said that this issue brings to light a global conspiracy against the Islamic sanctities and all divine religions. In view of the insulting anti-Christian films which have recently been released by some Western countries, one

becomes certain of the imminent formation of an insidious colonialist movement working against the sanctities of all divine religions and prophets by the enemies of Islam and the colonialists. The issue of Salman Rushdie is a manifestation of this global conspiracy against which his eminence the imam issued a categorical warning.

The deputy leadership referred to the Islamic nations' taking revenge on their governments saying that leaders of Islamic countries should not ignore the sentiments of 1 billion Muslims. It is expected that serious resolutions will be adopted in their forums and sessions, including the ICO session, on ways to confront and combat this conspiracy against Islam and all divine religions.

Khomeyni's IRGC Representative, Montazeri Meet
LD1103205589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri, the imam's new representative to the IRGC, held talks with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, the deputy leader gave him the necessary guidance on the best ways to implement the orders and views of Imam Khomeyni within the IRGC.

Abadan Refinery Scheduled To Reopen 1 Apr
LD1103200789 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Crude entered the Abadan oil refinery from reservoirs in Ahvaz today, public relations office of the Oil Ministry announced.

Abadan oil refinery, once the world's largest with a daily output of 650,000 barrels, was heavily damaged in the Iraqi war, but has since been greatly rebuilt following the August 20 ceasefire.

The crude will be stored in refinery reservoirs for use when the refinery resumes operations. Some 115 kms. of trunkline has been laid between Ahvaz oil fields and the refinery to supply needed oil.

The first production phase with a capacity of 130,000 barrels per day will be completed by Islamic Republic Day (April 1). The torch was ignited on 11 February, the tenth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Some 6,000 experts and workers are working round the clock at the refinery to get it back on full steam.

Tehran Says Number of Drug Addicts Decreasing
LD0803230189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Since the beginning of the year, more than 50 tons of narcotics have been discovered by the Islamic Revolution Committee Guards across the country. In an interview with reporters during which this news was announced, the deputy leader of the Islamic Revolution

Guards, said: In order to safeguard security in tribal regions, last year 250 stationary and mobile Guards stations were established in the provinces.

The deputy leader also said: In implementing the narcotics project and the fight against narcotics, addiction I.D. cards have been issued to more than 200,000 addicts. At the beginning of Mordad [month beginning 21 July], he stressed, the time given to addicts to turn themselves in will expire and they will then be liable for prosecution. He said the number of addicts before the revolution reached 2 million and this figure now is estimated to be 1 million nationwide. He stated the ban on the growing of narcotic plants as one of the decisive factors in reducing the number of drug addicts.

He referred to the plot by the CIA and mafia to distribute drugs in various countries and particularly in Iran, saying: We have information that the agents who import drugs into Pakistan receive their orders from CIA agents in the United States. Regarding next year's plan to combat narcotics, he said: About the establishment of a headquarters to combat drugs, next year the Islamic Revolution Committees will concentrate all their forces on giving drug traffickers less room to operate and stop all their activities.

He added: Next year will be the year of the death of the drug trafficker and the year of the rescue of addicts. For that reason, we have some plans to close the borders. He added that this year more than 52 armed rebels have been killed and 70 arrested. Eight wide-ranging operations have been successfully implemented against drug traffickers.

Pakistan

Kabul Protest of Airspace Violation Rejected

BK1303163089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Pakistan has rejected a protest by the Kabul regime that four Pakistan helicopters and one jet aircraft violated Afghan airspace on Friday last [10 March]. It described the allegation as fictitious.

Foreign Minister Departs for Iran 10 Mar

BK1003155089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Islamabad for Tehran this evening on a 1-day visit to Iran. Official sources told the Radio Pakistan correspondent that he will exchange views with his Iranian counterpart, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on the agenda of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers' meeting beginning in Riyadh on Monday. He will also discuss the Afghanistan situation.

Yaqub Khan Heads Delegation to ICO Meeting

BK1203154789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] The ministerial conference of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] is being inaugurated in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will lead the Pakistani delegation at the conference. The officials of ICO member countries have finalized a 7-point agenda which includes Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Gulf war prisoners of war, and the American threats against Libya. The Afghan mujahidin will also attend the conference as observers.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that during his stay in Tehran he held very fruitful and detailed talks with Iranian leaders. Talking to newsmen before leaving for Riyadh, he said the talks were held at the highest level, and regional issues and many other matters, especially the setting of the interim government in Afghanistan, the ICO ministerial conference, and the adoption of a strong resolution reflecting the Islamic community sentiments against the blasphemous book "Satanic Verses" [at the ICO conference], were discussed.

Curfew Imposed in Karachi East; Army Called In

BK1103082589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] The district magistrate of Karachi East has issued a press note that says one person was killed as a result of firing from a jeep at a group of 32-40 youths near Gulshan Firangi. The youths were demonstrating against an Urdu newspaper. The incident is being investigated and a special police party has been set up to apprehend the culprits.

In another incident, which took place in Model Colony police station area, some troublemakers opened fire at a marketplace, killing one person. The press note says that some people set fire to an oil tanker and indiscriminately fired at the police party patrolling along the railway line.

A curfew has been clamped on the Model Colony police station area and Saudabad locality in the Malir police station area as a precautionary measure until further notice. A spokesman of the public relations department of the Army has said that the Army has been called out to assist the civil administration in maintaining law and order in Model Colony, Quaidabad, Ajmer Nagri, Paposh Nagar, and Qasba Colony police station areas.

5 Dead; Events 'Under Control'

BK1103155689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] The situation in Karachi was peaceful but tense today after the incidents of sniping in various parts of the city last night. Administration sources told the Radio Pakistan correspondent that five people were killed as a result of shootings by unknown persons. A curfew is in force in certain areas of Model Colony and Malir, and the situation is said to be under control.

1 Killed; Indefinite Curfew

*BK1303032889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 13 Mar 89*

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi East stated that a group of people fired indiscriminately on some passersby in the Shah Faisal colony police station area, killing one person and injuring two. A curfew has been imposed in the area until further notice in order to prevent any further loss of life or property. Police are taking steps necessary to arrest the criminals.

Supreme Court Rules on Caretaker Cabinet

*BK1103101989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Text] A full bench of the Supreme Court has ruled that the formation of a caretaker government by the former president after the dissolution of the National Assembly on 29 May 1988 was an unconstitutional step. In a detailed judgment in connection with the petitions filed by Haji Saifullah and others, the bench has said that the office of the prime minister is always necessary to run the affairs of the state. Therefore, a prime minister should have been appointed to head the caretaker government.

The Supreme Court full bench has upheld the verdict of the Lahore High Court. The Supreme Court, which gave a brief judgment on 5 October last year, has now released a detailed verdict which has been unanimously passed by the bench. The bench was headed by Justice Mohammad Haleem, the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Upholding the Lahore High Court decision, the bench said that in the Constitution, there is no concept of a caretaker cabinet without a prime minister. A 12-judge bench has endorsed the high court judgment that the caretaker government set up from 29 May to 2 December 1988 by the former president was against the constitutional provisions.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice in Islamabad says that following the Supreme Court judgment, every order or appointment—for which prime minister's advice is necessary—issued by the president from 29 May to 2 December 1988 was illegal. Such orders and appointments need to be regularized in accordance with the Constitution and, therefore, all government offices, departments, high courts, and Supreme Court registrars have been asked to immediately contact the Ministry of Law and Justice in connection with all such orders and appointments which were issued in the name of the president, so that necessary steps may be taken to regularize them under the Constitution in the light of the Supreme Court decision.

The press release also says that all employees appointed under such orders should stop performing official duties so long as they are not regularized or they are not confirmed by the president with the advice of the prime minister.

'Reference' Made in Senate

*BK1103170489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 11 Mar 89*

[Text] The law minister, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, has indicated that the government may make a reference to the Supreme Court about the present composition of the Senate in the light of yesterday's detailed judgment of the said court declaring the caretaker government, appointed after the 29th of May last year, in violation of the Constitution.

Addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi today, he read out the judgment which said that partyless elections are not in consonance with the theme of our Constitution, and [words indistinct] discretion or choice whether to revive, restore, or perpetuate by resuscitating such assemblies, the court will [words indistinct] Constitution rather than departure and deviation from it and refuse to restore them. The law minister described it as the solemn and meaningful part of the judgment. He pointed out that the Senate was a creation of an electorate in partyless elections and therefore they are a little worried that it may be accepted. He, however, emphasized that they will not make any hasty decisions and a little more study was needed before making the reference. The law minister hailed the Supreme Court judgment as a landmark in the judicial history of the country.

Reading out the relevant portions of the judgment, he explained that the essence of the judgment is that in a parliamentary democracy, a government cannot be run without the prime minister even for a single day. He referred to the observation in the judgment that the absence of the prime minister from the caretaker government also for the period under discussion was very [word indistinct] of the (?conversion) from parliamentary democracy to the presidential system of government. The court also held that no part of the Constitution can be altered by any executive order.

Replying to a question, the law minister said the judgment does not affect those acts of the former or the present president taken under the discretionary powers granted to him under the Constitution.

Sri Lanka

Protests, Strikes, Boycott Mar Parliament Opening

2,000 Sinhalese Detained

*BK0903081389 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, about 2,000 people have been detained in a 3-day sweep against the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP]. The Sri Lankan deputy defense minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, told newsmen in Colombo that 1,000 persons have been detained in the southern areas and a similar

number in the Central Province around Kandy. The JVP have called on students to boycott classes to coincide with today's opening of Parliament. Security around the Parliament has been tightened.

JVP Protests Opening

BK0903072589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0636 GMT
9 Mar 89

[Text] Colombo, March 9 (AFP)—Anti-government Sinhalese militants forced shops and offices to close and sent vehicles off the streets in southern Sri Lanka to protest the inauguration of Parliament Thursday [9 March], officials said.

The Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) had called for a nationwide protest to mark the inauguration of Parliament with an address by President Ranasinghe Premadasa. Mr. Premadasa, who was elected president in December, is due to make his first policy statement to Parliament later Thursday.

Hundreds of heavily armed police and soldiers guarded approach roads to the Parliament on a lake island here for the inauguration ceremony involving students and the military. Security forces urged people to open shops in Matara, Hambantota and Badulla Districts and escorted state-owned buses after rebels torched two trucks and attacked trains elsewhere, officials said.

Reports from the central town of Kandy said a bus driver was shot dead Thursday morning for apparently ignoring JVP warnings to stay away from work. Railway tracks had been sabotaged at remote areas, officials said.

"The situation in Colombo seems to be normal. A few shops were closed and fewer buses operated and office attendance fell. But the situation seems to be improving," a military official here said.

The JVP in leaflets and posters claimed that February 15 general elections were rigged and urged people to protest the inauguration of what it described as a bogus Parliament.

Foreign minister and junior defence minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, told reporters here late Wednesday that security forces were continuing anti-subversive operations in the island's south. He said 2,000 suspected subversives, a government euphemism for the JVP, had been detained for questioning in the central and southern provinces since Monday. "Quite a few hardcore subversives were among those detained. Some were arrested with weapons. Some had admitted to various killings. Police have been asked to take action against those who are found guilty," Mr. Wijeratne said.

The JVP is opposed to the government and has continued a violent campaign attacking ruling party members, security personnel and leftwing rivals in the past 18 months.

Tamil Members Boycott Opening

BK0903092689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0907 GMT
9 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, March 9 (AFP)—The ceremonial opening of Sri Lanka's Parliament by President Ranasinghe Premadasa Thursday was marred by a boycott by Tamil MP's [Members of Parliament] and sporadic strikes by Sinhalese rebels, officials said.

Anti-government Sinhalese militants forced shops, offices and schools to close and sent vehicles off the streets in Southern Province. They also killed a bus driver in the central town of Kandy to protest the inauguration, officials said.

The Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) had called for a nationwide protest to mark the inauguration of the country's ninth Parliament which it says was elected at a rigged general election on February 15.

Mr. Premadasa in his first address to Parliament since coming to power after a December presidential election called for peace and unity in this troubled Indian Ocean island republic. He began the speech at 11.44 A.M. (06:14 GMT), considered by his astrologers to be an auspicious moment to bring good luck to him and the nation.

Mr. Premadasa said his United National Party (UNP) government had relentlessly pursued a policy of reconciliation and building trust and confidence with those who had not yet joined the democratic process.

Observers said this was a reference to the JVP and the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which is waging a bloody guerrilla war against Indian troops in the island's north and east.

"Those who disturb the peace must understand that the patience of our people is not unlimited," Mr. Premadasa said, hinting he might deviate from his soft approach to the militants.

The largest single Tamil group in the 225-member house, the Elavar Democratic Front (EDF) with 13 seats, boycotted Thursday's ceremonies. A spokesman for the party had earlier said they would stay away from Parliament until a ceasefire was ordered in the fighting between Indian troops and the LTTE. The EDF is the political wing of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) which is a close ally of the LTTE. But EROS, unlike the LTTE, accepted a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending the island's ethnic conflict. [passage omitted]

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